

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

---

Summer 1996 Volume 66 Number 3



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

Summer 1996

Volume 66, Number 3

## CONTENTS

---

BREEDING SUCCESS OF LEAST TERNS AND PIPING PLOVERS IN 1995 AT THE MID-AMERICAN GENERATING FACILITY NEAR SIOUX CITY.....	73
<i>Bill Huser</i>	
OFFICIAL CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS. 1996 EDITON.....	76
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA BIRD COLLECTION.....	86
<i>Thomas H. Kent and George D. Schrimper</i>	
REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1995.....	95
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1996 .....	99
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
CALIFORNIA GULL AT RUNNELLS WILDLIFE AREA .....	110
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore and Jim Sinclair</i>	
TWO LAUGHING GULLS IN CENTRAL IOWA .....	111
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
RED PHALAROPE AT SPIRIT LAKE .....	111
<i>Lee A. Schoenewe</i>	
SABINE'S GULLS AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR .....	112
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
RUFF AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR.....	112
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
RED PHALAROPES AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR.....	113
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
RED KNOTS AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR.....	114
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY .....	115
<i>Babs and Loren Padelford</i>	
BOOK REVIEW .....	116
<i>The Birds of Polk County</i>	

---

FRONT COVER: American Avocet at Pool Slough, Allamakee County, 16 May 1996. Photograph by Fred Leshner.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

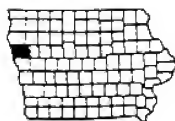
BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.

Copyright 1996 Iowa Ornithologists' Union

# BREEDING SUCCESS OF LEAST TERNS AND PIPING PLOVERS IN 1995 AT THE MID-AMERICAN GENERATING FACILITY NEAR SIOUX CITY

BILL HUSER

Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) and Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) have adapted to nest on power plant fly ash effluent pits, which resemble riparian sandbars formerly common on the Missouri River. Monitoring this usage and their nesting success has been an ongoing project of the Loess Hills Chapter of the National Audubon Society with cooperation of Iowa Public Service (and its successors) since 1985. The summer of 1995 became the most productive and successful breeding season recorded at this site for each of these species with four pairs of plovers and five pairs of terns breeding there.



The northern plains population of Piping Plovers was classified as Threatened in 1986 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By that time, the only nesting colonies of plovers on the channelized portion of the Missouri River adjacent to Iowa were those on fly-ash disposal pits operated by electric generating facilities in Sioux City and Council Bluffs. The interior population of the Least Tern was designated as Endangered in 1985 and, at that time, known Iowa breeding sites were reduced to the single Council Bluffs site.

The monitoring of the plovers at the Mid-American Energy (formerly Iowa Public Service and Mid-West Energy) facility revealed nesting activities in 1984 (Wilson 1984), in 1985 (Williams 1985) and continuing each year since. However, numbers of individuals and nesting attempts have decreased from those found in 1984 and 1985 (three pairs) each year. This trend continued to the point where breeding was barely in evidence in 1993 and 1994.

Least Terns, on the other hand, have been limited to only sporadic attempts at breeding, with the most notable efforts in 1986, 1987, and 1992. 1992 saw three nests with a minimum of eight eggs, for the only probable success.

## METHODS

In 1995, I visited the Mid-American Generating facility weekly from 23 June to 29 July and again on 13 August 1995. On each visit, I noted the number and locations of all nests, adults, and young. Also, I recorded the behavior of the adults and young and the growth (plumage progression) of the young.

## RESULTS

The summer of 1995 marked a dramatic reversal of that trend for both species. Four pairs of Piping Plovers breed at the site and, at least three broods and nine individuals successfully fledged (Table 1). These totals are based on the number of plovers actually seen at one time, the territory used, the species' breeding biologies and the individual's behavior. The first Piping Plover eggs hatched about 1 June, and hatching continued through about 24 July.

In 1995, apparently five pairs of Least Terns nested and fledged a minimum of eight young from three broods (Table 2). This was, by far, the most usage and success documented at this site for Least Terns. The first Least Tern eggs hatched

around 10 July and hatching continued through 10 August, much later than the plovers. An extraspecific observation was of a presumed pair of Willets, one singing, on 23 June (there was no evidence of the Willets on 30 June).

**Table 1.** Summary of counts of nesting Piping Plovers and their young at Mid-American Generating facility, Sioux City, in summer, 1995.

Date	No. of adults	No. of non-adults	Total pairs	on territory	Number of pairs:		
					on nest	with downy young	with feathered young
23 June	7	5	4	1	1	1(4 <sup>a</sup> )	1(1)
30 June	7	4	4	1	1	1(4)	1(?)
7 July	8	4	4	-	1	1(2)	2(1,?)
14 July	5	7	4	1	1	1(3)	1(4)
21 July	5	7	3	-	-	1(4)	1(3)
29 July	5	8	?	-	-	1(4)	1(4)
13 August	1	5	?	-	-	-	?(4)

a. Number of young present with pair

**Table 2.** Summary of counts of nesting Least Terns and their young at Mid-American Generating facility, Sioux City, in summer, 1995.

Date	No. of adults	No. of non-adults	Total pairs	on territory	Number of pairs:		
					on nest	with downy young	with feathered young
23 June	5	0	3	2	1	-	-
30 June	8	0	4	2	2	-	-
7 July	8	0	4	2	2	-	-
14 July	8	2	4	-	3	1(2 <sup>a</sup> )	-
21 July	10-12	1	5	1	3	1(1)	-
29 July	13	6	5?	-	2	?(4)	?(2)
13 August	9 <sup>b</sup>	6	?	-	-	1(2)	2(4 <sup>c</sup> )

a. Number of young present with pair.

b. Includes one first-summer bird.

c. Includes one brown, feathered juvenile, three small feathered juveniles, and two downy young.

Many factors, including weather, population trends, and river levels, may influence the results of this study. One such factor, the physical attributes of the fly-ash pits themselves, has changed substantially since this study began in 1985. Since that time, ash has accumulated in the pits to depths of two meters. This continual deposition constantly alters the topography of the pits and impacts water levels and the amount and location of undisturbed nesting habitat. This relationship between water levels and available habitat, along with the chemical and biological attributes of the water in the pits, is beyond the scope of this study. However, based on the results of this study, the conditions present during the summer of 1995 were very favorable to the breeding success of both of these threatened species.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Williams, R.D. 1985. Nesting Observations of the Piping Plover near Sioux City. *Nebraska Bird Review* 53:74-76.
- Wilson, B.L. 1984. 1984 Search for Piping Plovers and Least Terns in Iowa, Report to the Iowa Conservation Commission, Des Moines, 11 pp.

401 E. 14th St. S. Sioux City, NE 68776

# OFFICIAL CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS

## 1996 EDITION

THOMAS H. KENT

This list includes all records through 1995. There are 397 species on the list, up from 384 in 1991 (*IBL* 61:101-109), 371 in 1986 (*IBL* 56:46-55), and 361 in 1982 (*IBL* 52:67-76). The designations used for status of species are given below, with the number of species in each category in parentheses. The status of species seen in 3, 4, or 8 of the last 10 years is determined by majority vote of the Records Committee. The status Origin Uncertain is new, and the one species in this category (Fulvous Whistling-Duck) is not included in the Official Checklist.

Regular = seen every year or nearly every year, at least 8 of last 10 years (300 species).

Casual = seen many years but not all, at least 3 and less than 9 of last 10 years (15 species).

Accidental = seen once to several times, but less than 5 of last 10 years (78 species).

Extirpated = once regular or casual, but not seen in 50 years (2 species).

Extinct = no longer seen anywhere (2 species).

[Origin Uncertain (1 species).]

N = definite evidence of having nested in the state (198 species).

N? = probable evidence of nesting in the state (4 species).

(specimen) = existing specimen (307 species).

(photograph) = photograph published or on file (72 species).

(recording) = recording on file (1 species).

(documentation) = written description or published report on file (19 species).

Changes in the checklist from 1991 are as follows:

Species added (16): Reddish Egret, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Garganey, Gyrfalcon, Iceland Gull, Ross's Gull, Marbled Murrelet, Common Ground-Dove, Western Flycatcher species, Fish Crow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, and Bullock's Oriole.

Species deleted (3): White-tailed (Black-shouldered) Kite, Three-toed Woodpecker, Sprague's Pipit. Also, Ibis species is dropped.

Species occurrence changed from Casual to Regular (8): Tayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Burrowing Owl, Bewick's Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

Species occurrence changed from Accidental to Regular (1): Mississippi Kite.

Species occurrence changed from Extirpated to Regular (1): Trumpeter Swan.

Species occurrence changed from Accidental to Casual (8): Black-necked Stilt, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, California Gull, Sabine's Gull, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager.

Species occurrence changed from Casual to Accidental (1): Lark Bunting.

Species occurrence changed from Extirpated to Accidental (1): Swallow-tailed Kite.

New species confirmed as nesting (4): Ring-billed Gull, Northern Parula (from N?), Prairie Warbler (from N?), Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

New species with probable evidence of nesting (2): Red-necked Grebe, Black-headed Gull.

Species with evidence changed to specimen (4): White-faced Ibis, Great Gray Owl, Bewick's Wren, House Finch.

Species with evidence changed from documentation to photograph (7): Clark's Grebe, Common Eider, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, California Gull, Lewis's Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee.

Species with evidence from specimen to photograph (1): Pacific Loon.

Changes in English names (8): Green Heron (from Green-backed Heron), Swallow-tailed Kite (from American Swallow-tailed Kite), American Golden-Plover (from Lesser Golden-Plover), Black-headed Gull (from Common Black-headed Gull), Eastern Towhee (from Rufous-sided Towhee), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (from Sharp-tailed Sparrow), Baltimore Oriole (from Northern Oriole), Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (from Rosy Finch).

Changes in scientific names (5): *Ardea alba* (Great Egret), *Butorides virescens* (Green Heron), *Pluvialis dominicus* (American Golden-Plover), *Ammodramus nelsoni* (Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow), *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch).

Orders, families, subfamilies, and species names follow *The AOU Check-list of North American Birds*, Sixth Edition, 1983, and supplements through 1995 and the *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, Fifth Edition, 1996. Subfamilies of Muscicapidae and Emberizidae are used for clarity.

#### Order GAVIIFORMES

Loons, Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*): Casual (photograph)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): Casual (photograph)

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*): Regular N (specimen)

#### Order PODICIPEDIFORMES

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*): Regular N (specimen)

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*): Regular (specimen)

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*): Regular N? (specimen)

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): Regular N (specimen)

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*): Regular N (specimen)

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*): Accidental (photograph)

#### Order PELECANIFORMES

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*): Regular N? (specimen)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*): Accidental (photograph)

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*): Regular N (specimen)

Darters, Anhingidae

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*): Accidental (documentation)

Frigatebirds, Frigatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*): Accidental (photograph)

#### Order CICONIIFORMES

Bitterns and Herons, Ardeidae

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*): Regular N (specimen)

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*): Regular N (specimen)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*): Regular N (specimen)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*): Regular N (specimen)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*): Regular (specimen)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*): Regular N? (photograph)

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*): Accidental (documentation)

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*): Accidental (photograph)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Ibises and Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae  
 White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): Casual N (specimen)  
 Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Storks, Ciconiidae  
 Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*): Accidental (documentation)

## Order ANSERIFORMES

Swans, Geese, and Ducks, Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*): Regular (photograph)  
 Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*): Regular (specimen)  
 Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*): Regular (specimen)  
 Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*): Regular (specimen)  
 Brant (*Branta bernicla*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*): Regular N (specimen)  
 American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*): Regular (photograph)  
 Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*): Accidental (specimen)  
 American Wigeon (*Anas americana*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Redhead (*Aythya americana*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*): Regular (specimen)  
 Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*): Accidental (photograph)  
 King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): Regular (specimen)  
 Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*): Regular (specimen)  
 White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*): Regular (specimen)  
 Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*): Regular (specimen)  
 Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*): Regular (specimen)  
 Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*): Regular (specimen)  
 Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*): Regular N (specimen)

## Order FALCONIFORMES

American Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*): Regular N (specimen)



#### Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Allies, Accipitridae

- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): Regular (specimen)
- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*): Accidental N (specimen)
- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*): Regular N (photograph)
- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*): Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*): Regular (specimen)
- Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): Regular N (specimen)
- Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*): Accidental (documentation)
- Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*): Regular (specimen)
- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): Regular (specimen)

#### Caracaras and Falcons, Falconidae

- American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*): Regular N (specimen)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*): Regular N (specimen)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*): Accidental (photograph)
- Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*): Regular (specimen)

#### Order GALLIFORMES

##### Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail, Phasianidae

- Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*): Regular N (specimen)
- Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*): Accidental N (specimen)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*): Extirpated (specimen)
- Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*): Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*): Regular N (specimen)

#### Order GRUIFORMES

##### Rails, Gallinules, and Coots, Rallidae

- Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*): Regular (specimen)
- Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): Accidental (documentation)
- King Rail (*Rallus elegans*): Regular N (specimen)
- Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*): Regular N (specimen)
- Sora (*Porzana carolina*): Regular N (specimen)
- Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*): Accidental (specimen)
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): Regular N (specimen)
- American Coot (*Fulica americana*): Regular N (specimen)

##### Cranes, Gruidae

- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*): Accidental N (specimen)

#### Order CHARADRIIFORMES

##### Plovers and Lapwings, Charadriidae

- Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Regular (specimen)
- American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*): Regular (specimen)
- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Accidental (photograph)
- Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*): Regular (specimen)
- Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*): Regular N (specimen)

##### Stilts and Avocets, Recurvirostridae

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*): Casual (photograph)
- American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*): Regular (specimen)

##### Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies, Scolopacidae

- Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*): Regular (specimen)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*): Regular (specimen)
- Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*): Regular (specimen)

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*): Extirpated (specimen)  
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): Casual (photograph)  
 Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*): Accidental N (specimen)  
 Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*): Regular (specimen)  
 Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): Regular (specimen)  
 Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): Casual (specimen)  
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): Regular (specimen)  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*): Regular (specimen)  
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*): Regular (specimen)  
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*): Regular (specimen)  
 White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*): Regular (specimen)  
 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*): Regular (specimen)  
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): Regular (specimen)  
 Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): Regular N (specimen)  
 American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*): Casual (photograph)  
 Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers, Laridae  
 Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*): Casual (photograph)  
 Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Little Gull (*Larus minutus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Accidental N? (photograph)  
 Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*): Regular (specimen)  
 Mew Gull (*Larus canus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 California Gull (*Larus californicus*): Casual (photograph)  
 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*): Regular (photograph)  
 Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*): Casual (photograph)  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Regular (photograph)  
 Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*): Regular (photograph)  
 Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Regular (photograph)  
 Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): Regular (photograph)  
 Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*): Casual (specimen)  
 Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*): Regular (specimen)  
 Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*): Regular (specimen)  
 Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Auks, Murres, and Puffins, Alcidae  
 Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*): Accidental (documentation)

## Order COLUMBIFORMES

Pigeons and Doves, Columbidae

- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*): Regular N (specimen)
- Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*): Regular N (specimen)
- Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*): Extinct N (specimen)
- Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*): Accidental (photograph)

## Order PSITTACIFORMES

Lories, Parakeets, Macaws, and Parrots, Psittacidae

- Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*): Extinct (documentation)

## Order CUCULIFORMES

Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis, Cuculidae

- Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*): Accidental (photograph)

## Order STRIGIFORMES

Barn Owls, Tytonidae

- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): Regular N (specimen)

Typical Owls, Strigidae

- Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*): Regular N (specimen)
- Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*): Regular (specimen)
- Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*): Accidental (photograph)
- Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*): Regular N (specimen)
- Barred Owl (*Strix varia*): Regular N (specimen)
- Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*): Accidental (specimen)
- Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*): Regular (specimen)

## Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Goatsuckers, Caprimulgidae

- Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*): Regular N (specimen)
- Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*): Regular N (photograph)
- Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*): Regular N (specimen)

## Order APODIFORMES

Swifts, Apodidae

- Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*): Regular N (specimen)

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*): Regular N (specimen)
- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*): Accidental (specimen)

## Order CORACIIFORMES

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

- Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*): Regular N (specimen)

## Order PICIFORMES

Woodpeckers and Allies, Picidae

- Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*): Accidental (photograph)
- Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Spherapicus varius*): Regular N (specimen)
- Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*): Regular N (specimen)
- Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*): Accidental (photograph)
- Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*): Regular N (specimen)

## Order PASSERIFORMES

### Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

- Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*): Regular (specimen)
- Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*): Accidental (documentation)
- Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*): Regular N (specimen)
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*): Regular (specimen)
- Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*): Regular N (specimen)
- Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*): Regular (recording)
- Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*): Regular N (specimen)
- Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Western Flycatcher species (*Empidonax sp.*): Accidental (photograph)
- Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*): Regular N (specimen)
- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*): Accidental N (photograph)
- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): Accidental (photograph)
- Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): Regular N (specimen)

### Larks, Alaudidae

- Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*): Regular N (specimen)

### Swallows, Hirundinidae

- Purple Martin (*Progne subis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*): Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*): Regular N (specimen)
- Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*): Regular N (specimen)
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Regular N (specimen)

### Jays, Magpies, and Crows, Corvidae

- Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*): Accidental (photograph)
- Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*): Regular N (specimen)
- Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*): Accidental (documentation)
- Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*): Accidental (specimen)
- Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*): Accidental N (specimen)
- American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*): Regular N (specimen)
- Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*): Accidental (documentation)
- Common Raven (*Corvus corax*): Accidental (specimen)

### Titmice, Paridae

- Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*): Accidental (photograph)
- Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*): Regular N (specimen)

### Nuthatches, Sittidae

- Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*): Regular N (specimen)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*): Accidental (photograph)

### Creepers, Certhiidae

- Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*): Regular N (specimen)

### Wrens, Troglodytidae

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*): Casual N (photograph)
- Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*): Regular N (specimen)
- Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*): Regular N (specimen)
- House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*): Regular N (specimen)
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Regular N (specimen)
- Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*): Regular N (specimen)

### Muscicapids, Muscicapidae

#### Old World Warblers, Gnatcatchers, and Kinglets, Sylviinae

- Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*): Regular (specimen)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*): Regular (specimen)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*): Regular N (specimen)

#### Solitaires, Thrushes, and Allies, Turdinae

- Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*): Regular N (specimen)
- Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*): Casual (photograph)

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*): Regular (photograph)  
 Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): Regular N (specimen)  
 American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): Regular (photograph)  
 Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies, Mimidae  
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Wagtails and Pipits, Motacillidae  
 American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*): Regular (specimen)  
 Waxwings, Bombycillidae  
 Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Shrikes, Laniidae  
 Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*): Regular (specimen)  
 Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Starlings and Allies, Sturnidae  
 European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Vireos, Vireonidae  
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*): Regular N (photograph)  
 Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*): Regular (specimen)  
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Emberizids, Emberizidae  
 Wood-Warblers, Parulinae  
 Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*): Regular (specimen)  
 Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*): Regular (specimen)  
 Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*): Regular (specimen)  
 Northern Parula (*Parula americana*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*): Regular (specimen)  
 Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*): Regular (specimen)  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*): Regular (specimen)  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*): Regular (specimen)  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*): Regular (specimen)  
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*): Regular (specimen)  
 Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*): Regular N (photograph)  
 Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*): Regular N (photograph)  
 Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*): Regular (specimen)  
 Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*): Regular (specimen)  
 Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*): Regular (specimen)  
 Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*): Regular N (specimen)  
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*): Regular N (photograph)  
 Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*): Regular N (specimen)

- Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*): Regular (specimen)  
 MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*): Accidental (documentation)  
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*): Regular (specimen)  
 Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*): Regular N (specimen)
- Tanagers, Thraupinae
- Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): Casual (photograph)
- Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies, Cardinalinae
- Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*): Accidental (photo)  
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*): Regular N (specimen)
- Emberizines, Emberizinae
- Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*): Regular (photograph)  
 American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*): Regular (specimen)  
 Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*): Accidental (photograph)  
 Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*): Regular (specimen)  
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*): Regular (specimen)  
 Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*): Regular (specimen)  
 Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*): Regular (specimen)  
 Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*): Regular N (specimen)  
 White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*): Accidental (photograph)  
 White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*): Regular (specimen)  
 Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*): Regular (specimen)  
 Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*): Regular (specimen)  
 Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*): Accidental (specimen)  
 Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*): Regular (specimen)
- Blackbirds and Allies, Icterinae
- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*): Regular N (specimen)  
 Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*): Regular (specimen)  
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*): Regular N (photograph)

**Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*): Accidental (documentation)  
**Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies, Fringillidae**  
**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*): Accidental (photograph)  
**Pine Grosbeak** (*Pinicola enucleator*): Casual (specimen)  
**Purple Finch** (*Carpodacus purpureus*): Regular (specimen)  
**House Finch** (*Carpodacus mexicanus*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Red Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*): Regular N (specimen)  
**White-winged Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*): Regular (specimen)  
**Common Redpoll** (*Carduelis flammea*): Regular (specimen)  
**Hoary Redpoll** (*Carduelis hornemannii*): Accidental (photograph)  
**Pine Siskin** (*Carduelis pinus*): Regular N (specimen)  
**American Goldfinch** (*Carduelis tristis*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): Regular (specimen)  
**Old World Sparrows, Passeridae**  
**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*): Regular N (specimen)  
**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*): Regular N (photograph)

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

# THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA BIRD COLLECTION

THOMAS H. KENT AND GEORGE D. SCHRIMPER

The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, established in 1858 and the second oldest natural history (?) museum west of the Mississippi River, contains many specimens of Iowa birds. The history of the museum has been reviewed (Schrimper 1982, 1992), and many of the most important Iowa specimens have been cited in books on Iowa birds (Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933, Dinsmore et al. 1984). The specimen collection was examined by the authors of those works, but no independent listing of the rare Iowa birds in the collection has been published. Anderson does not cite many of the birds in the Talbot collection, which was donated to the University in 1891, and Anderson and DuMont do not cite birds in the Jones collection, which was acquired in 1928.

The Museum is located in Macbride Hall on the central campus. There are approximately 11,225 North American birds in the collection, of which approximately 3,975 were collected in Iowa. An additional 1,392 are from other world-wide locales. There are 1,064 mounted birds currently exhibited in the Museum's Bird Hall gallery in taxonomic and ecological groupings. The majority of the specimens have been prepared as study skins and are stored in several locations in Macbride Hall: in drawers under display cabinets in Bird Hall, in the attic, and in three rooms that are part of the Museum laboratory. The location of individual specimens is indicated in the collection database.

Historically, specimens acquired by the Museum have been numbered sequentially and entered into ledger books. Specimen records were also entered by species into a taxonomically-organized index card file. Over the last three years, the data on the index cards were entered into a computerized database, entries checked against the ledgers and existing specimens, and an additional acid-free label attached to each specimen. This effort made it easier to review the Iowa specimens and prepare this summary.

## METHODS

In 1980, the authors and Michael C. Newlon located and photographed many of the specimens of rare Iowa birds in the collection that had been cited by Anderson (1907) and DuMont (1933). In 1996, Kent reviewed the entire database of birds in the collection and listed those of Casual, Accidental, Extirpated, and Extinct status in Iowa, those with dates exceeding the third earliest arrival or latest departure, and those for some of the rarer Regular species. All specimens cited here were located, checked for accuracy of identification, and information on the specimen tags compared with the computer data file, index file, and ledger. All of the specimens of non-regular species and some of the others were photographed.

## RESULTS

### CASUAL, ACCIDENTAL, EXTIRPATED, AND EXTINCT SPECIES.

**White-faced Ibis:** One was taken from a flock of 13 near Rippey in Greene County in April 1891 by B. F. Osborn (#04839, Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933). This bird is an adult in breeding plumage with white feathering around the eye. This record was not cited by Dinsmore et al. (1984) because the specimen was not relocated at that time. An immature female, which could be either a White-faced or Glossy ibis, was found at Swan Lake in Johnson County on 10 August 1954, collected on 21





*Fig. 1. White-faced Ibis, April 1891, near Rippey.*

**King Eider:** A juvenile male, shot on the Mississippi River at Keokuk in Lee County by a boy on 10 November 1894, was brought to W. E. Praeger (#25003, Praeger 1895a, 1895b, 1925). A juvenile female, shot at Lake Odessa in Louisa County on 8 November 1890 by Stephen Slack, was initially identified as a Surf Scoter (#A33585, photos in Newlon and Kent 1981).

**Black Vulture:** An adult male was taken on the Raccoon River three miles south of Perry in Dallas County on 17 September 1933 by Louis S. Trevarthen (#A28927, mounted; Dill 1933).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** A male in the Talbot Collection was taken at Sioux City in Woodbury County on 8 April 1883 by J. F. Baker (#29688, DuMont 1933).

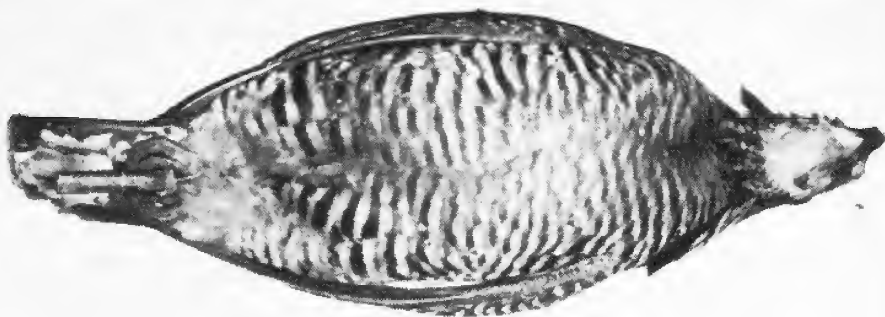


*Fig. 2. Swallow-tailed Kite, 8 April 1883, Sioux City.*

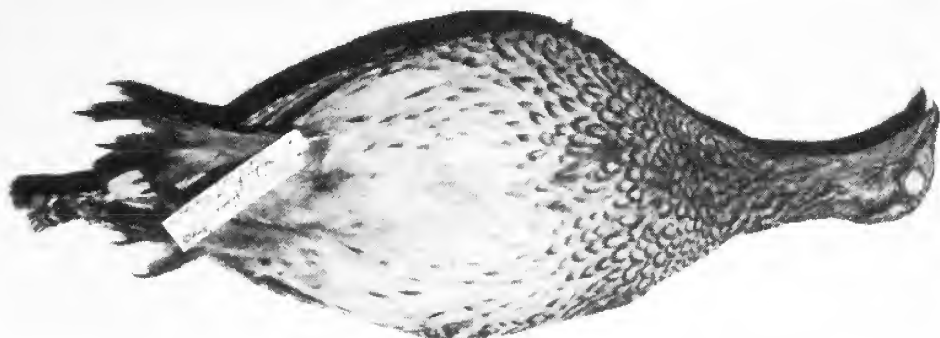
**Ferruginous Hawk:** An immature female is labeled "Iowa Co., 21 August 1936" (#29674, photos in Wilson 1988). The Records Committee classified this record as Not Accepted because of the unusual date and lack of information about the specimen (collector, exact location, and how obtained), leaving open the possibility that it was not obtained in Iowa (Records Committee #93-HC).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** No date is given for a female in the Bond Collection taken at Tiffin in Johnson County (#03663). A male was taken at Sioux City in Woodbury County on 10 January 1894 by Paul Bartsch (#16133). There are four females and one male from Onawa in Monona County taken by H. Moen (#27764 to #27768), dated 24 March 1921, except for #27764, which is undated.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** A bird in the C. M. Jones Collection was taken in Hardin County on 10 February 1883 (#29088).



*Fig. 3. Greater Prairie-Chicken, 10 January 1894, Sioux City.*



*Fig. 4. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 10 February 1883, Hardin County.*

**Whooping Crane:** There are four specimens from the Talbot Collection, all from Holly Springs in Woodbury County in 1887 (#5395, #5399, #5400, #5403). The first three are dated 8 April 1887 and the last just 1887. The first two are females and the last two unsexed. There are two other specimens from the Talbot Collection listed in the ledger that could possibly be the two unlabeled mounted specimens in Bird Hall (#5397, #5398). DuMont (1933) found the same four specimens that are currently in the collection.

**Long-billed Curlew:** A female in the Talbot Collection is from 8 April 1884 at Wolf Creek Slough in Woodbury County (#10662, DuMont 1933).

**Ruff:** A female was collected on 10 May 1940 in Louisa County by W. C. Thietje (#30212, mounted; Dill 1941). A ledger note indicates, "identified by H. Oberholser U.S.N.M."

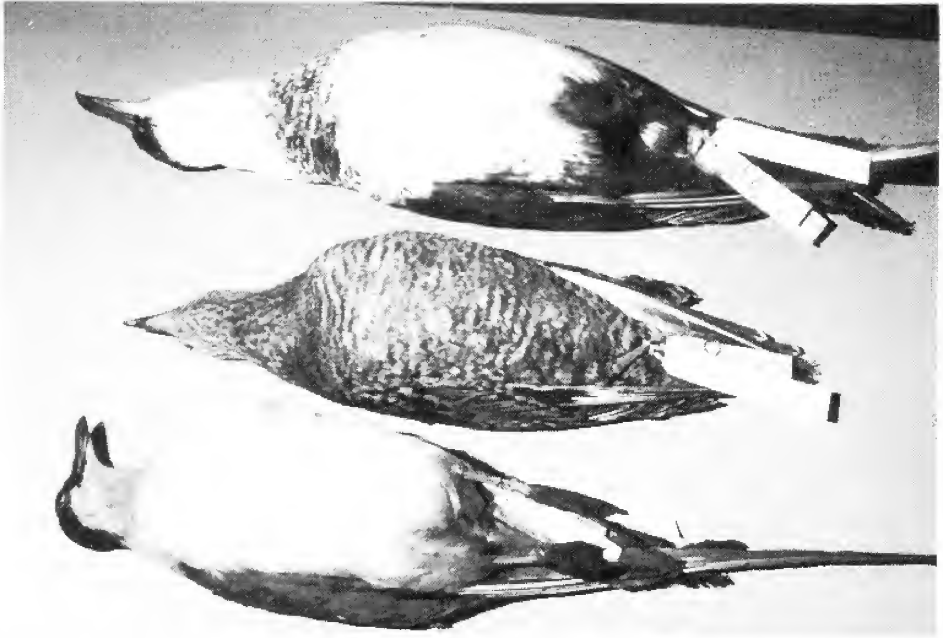
**Parasitic Jaeger:** A juvenile was shot near Keokuk in Lee County on 6 October 1896 and given to W. G. Praeger (#25004, Anderson 1907, Praeger 1925). The rufous coloration, buff tips to primaries, and small size (compared with Pomarine Jaeger) were used to confirm the identification.

**Long-tailed Jaeger:** An adult female, which was flying with pigeons at a farm near Lone Tree in Johnson County on or about 10

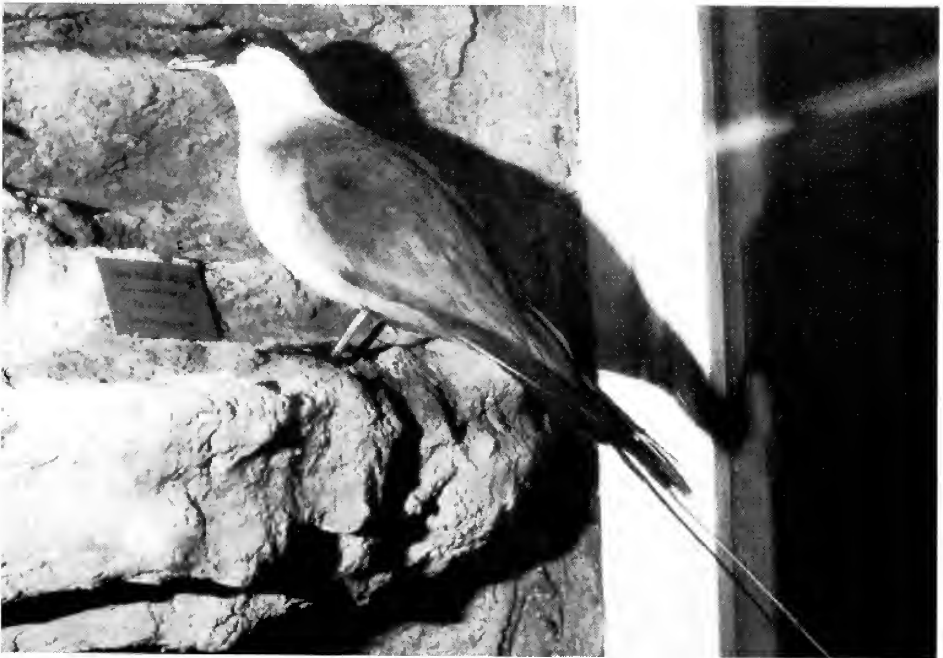


*Fig. 5. Ruff, 10 May 1940, Louisa County.*

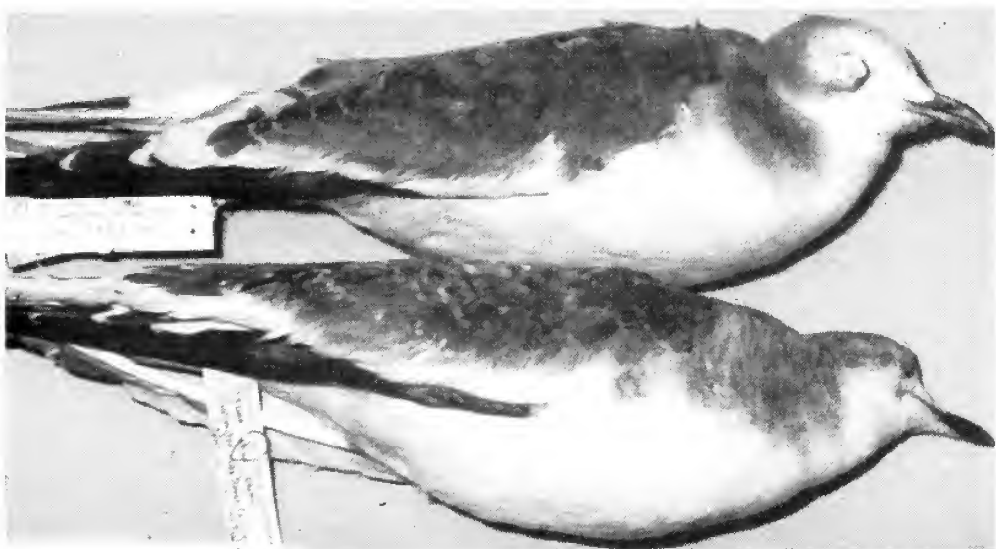
June 1907, was shot and captured alive by Charles Prizler (#21295, mounted; Anderson 1908).  
**Sabine's Gull:** A juvenile male on 15 October 1891 (#15981) and a juvenile female on 12 October 1895 (#15982) were collected on a sand bar above Burlington in Des Moines County by Paul Bartsch (Bartsch 1899, Anderson 1907).



*Fig. 6. Juvenile Parasitic Jaeger, 6 October 1896, Lee County (center, compared with arctic specimens of adult Pomarine Jaeger, top, and adult Long-tailed Jaeger, bottom).*



*Fig. 7. Long-tailed Jaeger, 10 June 1907, near Lone Tree.*



*Fig. 8. Juvenile Sabine's Gulls, 15 October 1891 and 12 October 1895, both near Burlington.*

**Passenger Pigeon:** One taken near Coralville in Johnson County on 7 May 1884 by John Williams is unnumbered and on display in Bird Hall (DuMont 1933).

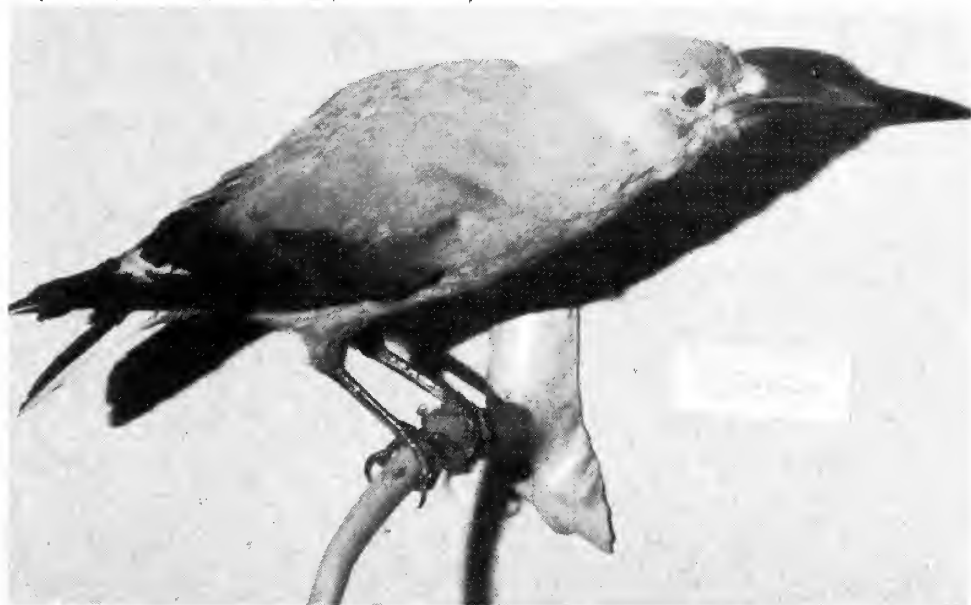


*Fig. 9. Passenger Pigeon, 7 May 1884, Coralville.*

**Gray Jay:** A male specimen is attributed to G. H. Berry from Linn County on 8 December 1918 (#32540). The site of origin of some of Berry's specimens has been questioned (Meyer 1959, Halmi 1977). Berry was said to have become eccentric sometime after 1915, and he submitted specimens to Coe College until 1917 (Meyer 1959). It is not known how a specimen taken by him in 1918 would have gotten to the University of Iowa. The specimen apparently remained unnumbered until 1954, when it was entered into the ledger by John Rohner, and later noted by Schrimper (Halmi 1977). Gray Jays occasionally move south in winter. A few were seen in central

Minnesota in the fall/early winter of 1919 but not 1918 (Roberts 1936). This Iowa record was Not Accepted by the Records Committee (#93-EU).

**Clark's Nutcracker:** One four miles south of Boone in Boone County on 23 September 1894 was shot by Cal Brown and donated by Carl Fritz Henning (#10753, Nutting 1894, Henning 1895, Anderson 1907). Another was taken at Tiffin in Johnson County on 30 November 1891 by A. W. Hemphill (#28401, mounted, Stoner 1920, DuMont 1933).



*Fig. 10. Clark's Nutcracker, 27 November 1919, Tiffin.*

**Black-billed Magpie:** A male caught in a trap at Winterset in Madison County on 1 December 1921 was contributed by A. Goshorn (#25803, Stoner 1922). Another from Emmetsburg in Palo Alto County on 14 December 1921 was given by Dr. L. T. Weeks (#27822). Stoner (1922) lists another specimen at the University of Iowa taken about December 1921 at Cedar Rapids, but DuMont (1933) appears to have been unaware of this specimen and we did not find any reference to it in the Museum.

#### SPECIMENS WITH DATES OF INTEREST

The current significance of records cited here is given in brackets.

**American Bittern:** One from Burlington was taken on 15 January 1892 by Paul Bartsch (#16121) [one of two winter records].

**White-winged Scoter:** A female was shot at a marsh south of Iowa City in Johnson County on 8 October 1932 by Earl [corrected from Carl] Kurtz (#28543)[record earliest], and another was taken there the next day (also #28543). Although there is only one ledger entry (for 9 October) and DuMont (1933) indicates that two females were received [sic] on 10 October 1932, the tags on the birds give the dates of 8 and 9 October.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** An immature bird from Iowa City in Johnson County on 16 October 1921 was collected by F. L. Fitzpatrick (#27798)[third latest].

**Merlin:** A female was taken in Louisa County on 14 August 1939 by W. C. Thietje (#29656)[record earliest].

**King Rail:** A female was taken in Johnson County on 18 April 1953 by W. C. Thietje (#32121)[third earliest]. Fall birds were collected in Johnson County on 6 October 1929 by S. Wilson (#28620)[third latest] and at Burlington in Des Moines County on 7 October 1894 by Paul Bartsch (#16312, male)[second latest].

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Three were taken at Burlington on 8 March 1894 by Bartsch (#16277 to #16279)[second earliest].

**Western Sandpiper:** Three in juvenal/basic plumage were taken at Burlington in Des Moines County on 15 October 1895 by Bartsch (#16362, female; #16363, male; #16364, male, DuMont 1933)[third earliest]. Some of the tertials and coverts show rusty edges. The bill lengths (19, 22, 22 mm) fit Western and not Semipalmated sandpipers (Stevenson 1979). These specimens add support to the concept that many of the late fall black-legged peeps found in Iowa may be Western rather than Semipalmated sandpipers.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** A male was taken by Gabrielson on 7 November 1913 at Marshalltown (#28698)[record latest](Gabrielson 1914, 1918).

**American Woodcock:** One from Coralville in Johnson County on 17 February 1990 was contributed by Kathryn Layne (#34590)[third earliest].

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** An adult male was found dead at North Liberty in Johnson County by Sarah Swaney on 1 April 1985 (#35911)[record early by two weeks].

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** One was collected at Forest City in Winnebago County on 28 May 1892 by R. M. Anderson (#22928, Anderson 1907)[second latest]. A male and female were collected in Johnson County on 24 May 1953 by W. C. Thietje (#32115, #32116)[third latest].

**Magnolia Warbler:** One in Johnson County on 18 April 1886 was contributed by Loren Akers (#00906, Anderson 1907)[ties record earliest]. Although this species rarely arrives before May, there is another April record from 18 April 1982 and occasional mid-April records from adjacent states.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** An immature male from Marshalltown in Marshall County on 10 August 1914 was collected by I. N. Gabrielson (#30075)[ties third earliest](Gabrielson 1919).

**Ovenbird:** A female from Johnson County on 10 October 1948 was contributed by Miss Slifer (#32649)[second latest].

**Indigo Bunting:** One was taken in Iowa City in Johnson County on 18 November 1928 by H. R. Dill (#27976)[record latest].

**Henslow's Sparrow:** One was taken in Johnson County on 16 April 1954 by W. C. Thietje (#32425)[third earliest].

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Three males were collected in Johnson County on 12 March 1955 by W. C. Thietje and J. R. Rohner, and four more males were collected the next day (#32631 to #32637)[record earliest]. The next earliest of a large number collected in Johnson County by Thietje and Rohner was from 27 March 1954 (#32390)[third earliest]. A juvenile male was collected at Forest City in Winnebago County on 10 September 1896 by R. M. Anderson (#22809, Anderson 1907)[record earliest].

#### OTHER SPECIMENS OF INTEREST.

A warbler taken on 22 August 1914 at Marshalltown (#30105) was identified by the collector, I. N. Gabrielson, as a Wilson's Warbler and later identified by DuMont as Connecticut (tag notation, DuMont 1933). This dingy specimen has no features to suggest Wilson's Warbler and its wing (60 mm) minus tail (47 mm) measurement of 13 mm alone makes it a Mourning Warbler (Lanyon and Bull 1967).

An empidonax flycatcher labeled Western Flycatcher from 18 May 1892 at Iowa City submitted by Mary McGuire is similar to Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the collection. All of the towhees in the collection from Iowa were Eastern Towhee, not Spotted Towhee.

Several potentially rare birds were misidentified. A Black-throated Loon (now Pacific Loon) was taken about 1895 at Burlington "Illinois side" by Bartsch (#10175, Nutting 1894, Anderson 1907). DuMont (1933) indicated that the specimen could not be found, but it was photographed in 1981 by Kent (Dinsmore et al. 1984), and was correctly identified as a Red-throated Loon by Schrimper in 1987 in response to an outside request from Ronald E. Goetz on Pacific/Arctic loons. The Records Committee considered the record to be in Illinois.

Other misidentifications include a Red-tailed Hawk from 24 November 1969 in Johnson County labeled Swainson's Hawk (#33599) and a Rough-legged Hawk from 20 December 1944 in Johnson County labeled Ferruginous Hawk (#34572). An Eastern Wood-Pewee from 7 April 1887 in Johnson County was an Eastern Phoebe (#01004).

A winter Burrowing Owl turned out to be a Barn Owl that had been accessioned with the same number as a Burrowing Owl from South Dakota. At least five records with unusual dates in the computer database turned out to be data entry errors when checked against the original tags or ledger.

Other rare to uncommon species present in the collection and not mentioned above include Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Yellow Rail, Common Moorhen, Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Red-necked Phalarope, Barn Owl, Winter Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Common Redpoll.

## DISCUSSION

The Museum of Natural History at the University of Iowa contains a large collection of bird specimens from Iowa. Among these are number of rare birds that we have confirmed and listed for future reference. We also discovered several new early and late date records.

Specimen records suffer some of the same problems as sight records in terms of accuracy of data. In both instances, the most common error may be in recording and translating dates. With most specimens there is no way of verifying that the site and date listed on the tag are correct, and it is rare to find additional information on the circumstances of collection. Most of the early specimens were collected, whereas, most of the recent ones are birds that were found dead.

Without examining every specimen in the collection, we cannot be sure that all of the interesting specimens have been noted here. There have been many taxonomic changes, including lumping and splitting of species, since the time when most of the specimens were identified. The large number of specimens in the collection makes it useful for the study of identification problems.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Anderson, R. M. 1907. The birds of Iowa. *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.* 11:125-417.  
Anderson, R. M. 1908. An addition to the birds of Iowa. *Auk* 25:215.  
Bartsch, P. 1899. *Xema sabinii* and *Chordeiles virginianus sennetti* - two additions to the Iowa avifauna. *Auk* 16:86.  
Dill, H. R. 1933. The Black Vulture in Dallas County Iowa. *Wilson Bull.* 45:203.  
Dill, H. R. 1941. Ruff in Iowa in spring. *Auk* 58:257.  
Dinsmore, J. J., T. H. Kent, D. Koenig, P. C. Petersen, and D. M. Roosa. 1984. *Iowa Birds*. Iowa State University Press, Ames.  
DuMont, P. A. 1933. *A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa*. University of Iowa Studies in Natural History, vol. 15, no. 5.  
Gabrielson, I. N. 1914. Sandpiper notes. *Wilson Bull.* 26:45.  
Gabrielson, I. N. 1918. A list of the birds found in Marshall County, Iowa. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 25:123-153.  
Gabrielson, I. N. 1919. The birds of Marshall County, Iowa, II. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 26:47-75.  
Halmi, N. S. 1977. More Gray Jays in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 47:65.  
Henning, C. F. 1895. Clark's Crow or Nutcracker. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1:62-63.  
Lanyon, W. E., and J. Bull. 1967. Identification of Connecticut, Mourning, and MacGillivray's warblers. *Bird-Banding* 38:187-194.  
Meyer, A. W. 1954. Glossy Ibis at Swan Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 24:80.



- Meyer, A. W. 1959. George Berry, Iowa naturalist. *Iowa Bird Life* 29:74-78.
- Newlon, M. C., and T. H. Kent. 1981. Fifth record of the King Eider in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 51:126-129.
- Nutting, C. C. 1894. Report of the committee on state fauna. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 2:43-51.
- Praeger, W. E. 1895a. Two records from Keokuk Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1:52.
- Praeger, W. E. 1895b. Two records from Keokuk Iowa. *Auk* 12:85-86.
- Praeger, W. E. 1925. Birds of the Des Moines Rapids. *Auk* 42:565-577.
- Pyle, P, S. N. G. Howell, R. P. Yunick, and D. F. DeSante. 1987. *Identification Guide to North American Passerines*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA.
- Roberts, T. S. 1936. *The Birds of Minnesota*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Schrimper, G. D. 1982. A brief history of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and its ornithological collections. *Iowa Bird Life* 52:103-111.
- Schrimper, G. D. 1992. The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History: an historical perspective. *J. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 99:86-97.
- Stevenson, H. M. 1979. Identification of Semipalmated and Western sandpipers. *Birding* 11:84-88.
- Stoner, D. 1920. Bird records for the season 1919-1920 in the vicinity of Iowa City. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 37:379-384.
- Stoner, D. 1922. On the eastward movement of magpies. *Wilson Bull.* 34:44-45.
- Wilson, B. L. 1983. Identifying meadowlarks in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 53:83-87.
- Wilson, B. L. 1988. Records of Ferruginous Hawk in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 58:95-100.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246 and University of Iowa Museums,  
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52240



# REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1995

THOMAS H. KENT

The Records Committee reviewed 75 records from 1995. Of these, 65 were accepted and 10 were not. Species added to the state list were White Ibis, Fish Crow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, and Bullock's Oriole. In addition to the 1995 records, two previous Fish Crow records were re-evaluated and accepted. Rufous-sided Towhee was split into Eastern and Spotted towhees, both of which are regular in Iowa. Northern Oriole was split into Baltimore and Bullock's orioles. One 1995 record and one old record of Bullock's Oriole were accepted.

Old records reviewed included one Red-naped Sapsucker and four Bullock's Orioles. Only one of the Bullock's Oriole records was accepted. A previously-reviewed Swallow-tailed Kite record was accepted based on confirmation of a specimen.

At its meeting of 22 October 1995, status changes for the next edition of the state list were considered.

Committee members for 1995 with years in which their terms expire were: Tanya E. Bray (1996), Raymond L. Cummins (1997), Francis L. Moore (1998), Ann M. Johnson (1999), W. Ross Silcock (2000), Tim Schantz (2001), and Thomas H. Kent (secretary, appointed by the committee). Tim Schantz moved from the state and resigned from the committee during the year. Bob Cecil served as a substitute for Schantz. Chris Edwards was nominated to fill Schantz's term, and Jim Fuller was nominated to fill a regular term beginning in 1996.

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. For old records not previously reviewed, the year is the year of first review and the sequence number is two letters. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation, -O = origin uncertain) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be Accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are subclassified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports in Iowa Bird Life where the record is cited. P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An \* indicates a previously uncited documentation.

## 1995 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Red-throated Loon:** 22 Apr at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. (95-03, *IBL* 65:60, Proescholdt 1996); 29 Oct at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (95-27, *IBL* 66:17); 11 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (95-28, *IBL* 66:17); and 16, 17 Nov at Saylorville Res. (95-29, *IBL* 66:17).

**Pacific Loon:** 26 Oct at Twelve Mile L. in Union Co. (95-30, *IBL* 66:17); 28 Oct at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. (95-31, *IBL* 66:17); 29 Oct at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. (95-32, *IBL* 66:17); 31 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (95-33, *IBL* 66:17); and 21 Nov at L. Icaria in Adams Co. (95-34, *IBL* 66:17).

**Clark's Grebe:** 12 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (95-35, *IBL* 66:17).

**White Ibis:** Iowa's first record of this species was a cooperative immature bird at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. from 5 to 16 Sep (95-61, P-0464, *IBL* 66:18, 66(1) cover).

**Glossy Ibis:** 2 adults with 2 White-faced Ibis at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. from 18 to 22 May were photographed (95-05, P-0452, *IBL* 65:70, Kent et al. 1995).

**White-faced Ibis:** 25 Apr at Blue L. in Monona Co. (96-06, P-0448, *IBL* 65:70), 14 May in Warren Co. (95-07, *IBL* 65:70), and 18 May at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (95-08, P-0451, *IBL* 65:70).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 27 Oct at De Soto N.W.R. in Harrison Co. (95-36, *IBL* 66:18).

- Common Eider:** A female of the Pacific race, *Somateria mollissima v-nigra*, at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. from 27 Jan to March or April provides only the second accepted record for Iowa (95-01, *IBL* 65:47, 71).
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** 9 Dec at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (95-73, *IBL* 66:55) and 18 Dec at Montrose in Lee Co. (95-70, *IBL* 66:55).
- Mississippi Kite:** Documentations for the birds at Clive in Polk Co. were from 13, 18 May (95-10, *IBL* 65:71) and 22 Aug (95-37, *IBL* 66:19). The status of this species was changed to Regular, which means that in the future the committee will only review unusual records; however, birds away from the regular location in Polk County should be documented for review by Field Reports editors.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** A most unusual dark morph bird was seen well and described in detail at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. on 22 Mar (95-11, \*James R. Mattsson, *IBL* 65:72).
- Whimbrel:** 16 May north of Bartlett in Mills Co. (95-12, *IBL* 65:73); 24 May in Hamilton Co. (95-13, *IBL* 65:73, Kent and Fuller 1996); 27 Aug at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (95-38, *IBL* 66:20); and 1 Oct at Bjorkboda M. in Hamilton Co. (95-39, *IBL* 66:20).
- Long-billed Curlew:** 22 May at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. (95-14, *IBL* 65:73).
- Red Knot:** Two were adults, one in alternate plumage at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. on 22 Jul (95-40, *IBL* 65:98, 66:20) and one in basic plumage at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. on 1 Sep (95-41, *IBL* 66:20, Dinsmore 1996a). Two were juveniles, one at Rathbun Res. on 14 Aug (95-62, P-0462, *IBL* 66:20) and one at Saylorville Res. from 29 Sep to 3 Oct (95-42, *IBL* 66:20, Dinsmore 1996a).
- Ruff:** All three were females: 1 Apr at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (95-15, *IBL* 65:73); 22 Apr in Ringgold Co. (95-16, *IBL* 65:73, Sinclair 1996); and from 21 to 26 Aug at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (95-63, P-0463, *IBL* 66:21, Kent 1996a).
- Red Phalarope:** Records were from Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. on 19 Sep (95-44, *IBL* 66:21, Dinsmore 1996b) and from 22 to 26 Oct (95-45, *IBL* 66:21, Dinsmore 1996b).
- Jaeger species:** An immature jaeger was seen briefly at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. on 24 Sep (95-46, *IBL* 66:21).
- Laughing Gull:** an adult on 11 May at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (95-17, P-0449, *IBL* 65:73, Kent 1995); a first-alternate/second-basic bird at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (95-47, *IBL* 66:21); a basic adult at Runnells W.A. from 3 to 6 Sep (95-64, P-0478, *IBL* 66:21, Dinsmore 1996c); a first-basic bird in Scott Co. on 30 Sep (95-48, *IBL* 66:21); and a basic adult at Saylorville Res. on 19, 20 Oct (95-49, *IBL* 66:21, Dinsmore 1996c).
- California Gull:** A first-basic bird was at Runnells W.A. and Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. from 3 to 6 Sep (95-65, P-0477, *IBL* 66:21, Dinsmore and Sinclair 1996).
- Iceland Gull:** A first-basic bird was at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. from 17 to 30 Nov (95-66, P-0473, P-0479, *IBL* 66:21, Dinsmore 1996d).
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** A first-alternate/second-basic bird at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. from 24 to 28 Sep (95-67, P-0466, P-0467, P-0472, *IBL* 66:21-22, Padelford and Padelford 1996) was the oldest bird and earliest fall record for Iowa. First-basic birds were at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. on 19 Nov (95-53, *IBL* 66:22) and at Montrose in Lee Co. on 18 Dec (95-71, *IBL* 66:57). This species is now Regular. Only birds not in first-basic plumage or not from fall/winter will be reviewed, but details of all sighting should still be provided to Field Reports editors.
- Sabine's Gull:** All juveniles: 1 at Terra L. in Polk Co. from 6 to 8 Sep (95-54, *IBL* 66:22); 1 to 2 at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. from 14 Sep to 8 Oct (95-55, *IBL* 66:22, Dinsmore 1996e); 1 to 2 at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 27 Sep to 14 Oct (95-56, *IBL* 66:22); and 1 at Pool 13 in Clinton Co. on 22 Oct (95-57, *IBL* 66:22).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** An immature male was at a feeder in Cedar Rapids in Linn Co. on 16 Nov (95-68, P-0475, *IBL* 66:22).
- Selasphorus sp.:** An immature bird was at a feeder in Cedar Rapids in Linn Co. until 25 Nov (95-69, P-0474, P-0475, *IBL* 66:22). It was captured and taken to a greenhouse, but died on 22 Dec. The specimen is still under review.
- Fish Crow:** From 1 to 4 birds were at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. from 21 to 26 Apr (95-18, \*Thomas H. Kent, \*Ann Johnson, \*Jim Fuller, *IBL* 65:74). These birds, along with two previous records (see below), were accepted based on the descriptions of their calls.
- Black-billed Magpie:** One documented in western Plymouth Co. on 19 Nov (95-72, *IBL* 66:23) was seen by landowners before and several weeks after that.
- Mountain Bluebird:** Two males were near Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. on 24 Mar (95-19, *IBL* 65:75, Thelen 1996), and another was in O'Brien Co. on 12 Apr (95-58, *IBL* 65:99).
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** A bird seen briefly at Eagle City County Park in Hardin Co. on 2 Jun had bold white eye crescents, black around the eye, and black on the upper breast (95-25, \*Mark Proeschoidt, *IBL* 65:100). Although these are the features of an adult male MacGillivray's Warbler, Mourning Warblers occasionally show some of these features, and two expert consultants disagreed as to whether extralimital MacGillivray's Warblers should be accepted without the

diagnostic wing minus tail measurements. Those interpreting the state list should realize that this species is included on the basis of a sight record.

**Lazuli Bunting:** One was at a rural homestead near Spencer in Clay Co. on 29 May (95-20, *IBL* 65:77).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** Three were at a rural feeder in Hamilton Co. for about two weeks in early May (95-24, P-0459, *IBL* 65:77).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** 12 Apr in Sioux Co. (95-21, P-0447, *IBL* 65:77, *Field Notes* 49:260, Kent 1996b) and 12 Apr in Lyon Co. (95-22, *IBL* 65:77, Kent 1996b).

**Bullock's Oriole:** A male on 3 Sep at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (95-59, *IBL* 66:25).

**Pine Grosbeak:** 27 Feb to 2 Mar at Spencer in Clay Co. (95-23, P-0446, *IBL* 65:78).

**Hoary Redpoll:** 23 Dec near Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (95-75, *IBL* 66:60).

## 1995 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

**Anhinga:** There were two reports that were likely immature Double-crested Cormorants (95-04, 95-26).

**Common Eider:** A brief and incomplete look at a female duck at Saylorville Res. on 26 Mar could have been the bird that was at Red Rock Res., but the identification was considered inconclusive (95-09, *IBL* 65:71).

**Gyr Falcon:** A bird seen briefly at a great distance was considered inconclusive (95-02, *IBL* 65:48).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** The field marks seen at a great distance were judged to be inconclusive (95-43, *IBL* 66:21).

**Mew Gull:** An apparent adult at a very early date was seen briefly by one observer (95-50, *IBL* 66:21). The description of a first-year bird was not conclusive (95-51, *IBL* 66:21).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The committee took a conservative view of an apparent adult dark-mantled gull seen at 1.5 miles (95-52, *IBL* 66-21).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** The identification of a winter meadowlark was based on lack of yellow cheek color (95-74). This field mark may be absent in mid-winter when birds are in fresh plumage, and becomes apparent later as feathers wear.

**Pine Grosbeak:** A secondhand documentation gave the features of this species (95-60, *IBL* 66:25). The committee decided, as a matter of principle, that there was no way to judge bias and prompting when a documentation is written in the hand of second person. Birders should make every effort to encourage observers to write notes or documentations and not to prompt or bias their efforts.

## OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR FIRST TIME

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** A previously unreviewed published report (Youngworth 1966) was based on a red nape, which is not a totally diagnostic field mark (95-AA). Observers of "red-naped" birds should record the pattern of white on the back and the distribution of red on the throat and its relation to the black malar stripe (Kaufman 1990).

**Bullock's Oriole:** There are no old records and only a few recent records of this one-time species that was lumped with Baltimore Oriole (as Northern Oriole) from 1973 to 1995 (American Ornithologists' Union 1973, 1975). Four documentations that were on file were reviewed. A male on 12 May 1993 at Clemens in Marshall Co. (95-AD, \*Holly Humpal, *IBL* 63:80) was Accepted (see also 1995 record). Females at Cedar Falls on 20 Dec 1981 (95-AB, P-0038, *IBL* 52:28) and at Maysville in Scott Co. on 21 Nov 1987 (95-AE, *IBL* 58:23) were Not Accepted, but may be reconsidered as more information becomes available on identification of winter females of these two previously lumped species. Another oriole that could have been an immature male, a hybrid, or even a completely different species was Not Accepted (95-AC, *IBL* 63:52).

## OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** The existence of a specimen at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology (#201,642) taken on 25 Aug 1872 at Creston in Union Co. was confirmed (94-AE, letter from Raymond A. Paynter Jr. to Thomas H. Kent, *IBL* 65:82).

**Fish Crow:** Two previous records were changed to Accepted: 8 May 1991 at Big Sand Mound Preserve in Muscatine Co. (91-23, \*Tim Brush, *IBL* 61:94, 62:71) and 25 Apr 1994 at Big Timber in Louisa Co. (94-14, \*Kelly McKay, *IBL* 64:77, 65:82). The problem with Fish Crow records is that the committee must rely on the observers description of calls. With records from three years in the same county by observers experienced with this species, the committee voted, with one dissenting vote, to accept these records.

## LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1973. Fortieth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union check-list of North American birds. *Auk* 90:411-419.
- American Ornithologists' Union. 1995. Thirty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union check-list of North American birds. *Auk* 112:819-830.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1996a. Red Knots at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:114-115.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1996b. Red Phalaropes at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:113-114.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1996c. Two Laughing Gulls in central Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:111.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1996d. Iceland Gull at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:66-67.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1996e. Sabine's Gulls at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:112.
- Dinsmore, S. J., and J. Sinclair. 1996. California Gull at Runnells Wildlife Area. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:110.
- Kaufman, K. 1990. *Advanced Birding*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.
- Kent, T. H. 1995. Laughing Gull at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:102.
- Kent, T. H. 1996a. Ruff at Coralville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:112-113.
- Kent, T. H. 1996b. Chestnut-collared Longspurs in Sioux and Lyon counties. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:61-63.
- Kent, T. H., and J. L. Fuller. 1996. Whimbrel in Hamilton County. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:29.
- Kent, T. H., J. L. Fuller, and A. R. Tetrault. 1995. Glossy Ibis in Fremont County. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:87-88.
- Padelford, B., and L. Padelford. 1996. Black-legged Kittiwake in Pottawattamie County. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:115.
- Proescholdt, M. 1996. Red-throated Loon at Little Wall Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:64-65.
- Sinclair, J. 1996. Ruff in Ringgold County. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:65-66.
- Thelen, E. 1996. Mountain Bluebirds in Dickinson County. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:67-68.
- Youngworth, W. 1966. The Red-naped Sapsucker ? at Sioux City. *Iowa Bird Life* 36:52.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

## CORRECTION

There is an error in the Christmas Bird Count table published in the last issue of *Iowa Bird Life* (vol. 66, page 48). All of the towhees were reported as Eastern Towhee but at least two of the four reported at Shenandoah and the one on the Boone count were Spotted Towhee. The one at Keokuk was an Eastern Towhee. The species was not noted for two of the Shenandoah birds and the one at Clinton.

# FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1996

THOMAS H. KENT

## WEATHER

March was cold and dry. The first 10 days were very cold, especially on the 7th when subzero temperatures spread over the state. There was a warming trend from the 10th to the 17th, then subnormal temperatures the rest of the month.

April continued the cold dry trend, with only four brief periods above normal temperatures (2-3, 10-12, 17-19, and 24-25) and drought that would have been record breaking had it not been for widespread rain on the 28th and 29th. Until the rains came, many water areas were extremely low with extensive mud flats.

The rains that started in late April continued through May, especially in the south and east, and the month was also much cooler than normal. As a result, leaves on most trees and shrubs were late to emerge.



## GENERAL TRENDS

The cold weather in March may have delayed the waterfowl migration a bit, and there were more late records of rare winter gulls than ever. Many shorebirds were seen in March and April when there were extensive mud flats. After late April, the few shorebirds in eastern Iowa were found in flooded fields; however, habitat remained favorable in western Iowa through May. At Union Slough N.W.R., water levels were maintained at a low level to facilitate the monitoring of shorebird migration. American Avocet, Willet, and Marbled Godwit were more common and widespread than usual. Wilson's Phalarope was also much more common than usual with one nest found at the end of May. Grebes were plentiful and included 5 reports of Red-necked Grebe and 7 reports of Western Grebe. Herons were present in normal or greater numbers, except for Black-crowned Night-Heron, which was scarce.

The most spectacular aspect of the spring migration was the delayed and then massive passerine migration. In looking at the first arrival dates for many of the passerines, one would think that there were few observers in the field in late April and early May, but I have been assured that the birds were just not there. On Saturday, 11 May, a day when many birders were in the field, massive numbers of warblers were found. Other waves were noted on 15-16, 23, 25, and 29 May. Late May was particularly good for warblers in northwestern Iowa. As usual, a number of birders monitor the warbler migration and provide a large amount of data.

The invasion of Great-tailed Grackle continues, with many birds found in 16 counties. Mississippi Kites returned to Clive and began nest building. Perhaps there are more in the state that haven't been discovered. In a short 12 years, House Finches have become so widespread that they are no longer reported. Sandhill Cranes also are expanding in Iowa, with birds returning to sites where they nested in the last few years and with more observations of migrants. Trumpeter Swans have been introduced at several locations in Iowa, but no one reported them this spring. Eurasian Tree Sparrows seem to be extending their range slightly, with reports from Muscatine and Lee counties this spring.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Neotropic Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Snowy Plover, Ruff, Little Gull, Great Gray Owl, Fish Crow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting. If accepted, the cormorant would be new for Iowa. Casual species included Red-throated Loon, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Laughing Gull, Iceland Gull, Mountain Bluebird, and Western Tanager. Some of the rarer regular species included Cinnamon Teal, Black Scoter, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Bewick's Wren, Prairie Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak.

## SPECIES DATA

(\* = documented; [ ] = records date)

**Red-throated Loon:** A bird in basic plumage was on a gravel pit south of Sioux Center in Sioux Co. on 19 Apr (\*JV)[2nd earliest].

**Common Loon:** First: 23 Mar at Rathbun Res. (MPR). Last: 29 May at Little Wall L. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD), at Silver L. in Worth Co. (RGo), and at Rice L. in Worth/Winnebago counties (RGo, CUF). High count: 20 on 5 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Three others were noted in May.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** First: 5 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). High count: 178 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD).

**Horned Grebe:** First: 24 Mar at Rathbun Res. (SJD) and at Saylorville Res. (AMJ). Last: 12 May at L. Manawa (SJD). High count: 13 on 27 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC). There were 19 reports from 15 locations.

**Red-necked Grebe:** All: 1 on 13 Apr at East Okoboji (ET), adults in alternate plumage on 11 May at Big Creek L. and Saylorville Res. (\*\*SJD, BE), 1 in alternate plumage on 12, 13 May at Amana L. (JLF, CE), and 2 in alternate plumage on 24 May at Black Hawk L. (PE-details)[2nd latest].

**Eared Grebe:** First: 2 on 19 Apr at Anderson L. (SJD, JJD). Last: 2 on 29 May at Little Wall L. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD). High count: 20 on 28 Apr at Black Hawk L. (PE). There were 19 reports from 17 locations.

**Western Grebe:** All: 4 May at Snyder's Bend (BFH), 11 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE), 2 on 11 May at Trumbull L. (LAS), 13 May at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. (PJW, DT), 17 May at Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPR), 25 May at L. Ahquabi (JSi), and 27 May at Little Wall L. (PHA/RIA).

**American White Pelican:** First: 50 on 2 Mar at Pool 19 in Lee Co. (JLF). High count: 1,200 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD). Pelicans were common in all areas of the state with some lingering to the end of the period.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** First: 3 on 23 Mar at Big Creek L. (SJD). High count: 1,800 on 24 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**American Bittern:** First: 23 Apr at Zirbel Sl. (RGo). Reports were of 15 single birds at 12 locations.

**Least Bittern:** All: 5 on 21 and 27 May at Norwalk sewage ponds in Warren Co., 1 on 22 May at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 1 on 24 May at Green Island W.A. (JLF), and 1 on 25 May at Little Spirit L. (ETH).

**Great Blue Heron:** There were 7 nests on 17 Apr along the Des Moines R. in Boone Co. (SJD) and 9 occupied nests on 13 May on the Cedar River north of Floyd (MAP).

**Great Egret:** First: 2 on 24 Mar at Anderson L. (JJD). High count: 50 on 13 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). In general, first arrivals were noted in late March to early April with peak numbers in mid- to late April.

**Snowy Egret:** All: 1 from 20 to 22 Apr at Decorah (DeC), 3 on 24 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 1 on 24 Apr at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (JLF), 1 on 26 Apr at Black Hawk L. (RTh), 2 from 27 Apr to 1 May at Cardinal M. (DeC), 1 on 19 May in Lucas Co. (RLC), and 1 on 20 May north of Modale in Harrison Co. (JLF, THK).

**Little Blue Heron:** All: 1 ad. on 25 Apr at Mt. Joy in Scott Co. (PCP), 1 calico on 25 Apr west of Chelsea in Tama Co. (JLF), 1 ad. on 25 Apr at Diamond L. (MPR), 1 ad. on 25 Apr at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh), 1 ad. and 1 calico on 20 May at Riverton A. (JLF, THK), and 1 ad. on 31 May at Trumbull L. (Eric Seabloom fide JJD). The calico bird at Riverton A. was just starting to get blue feathers in the wing coverts (THK). It would be useful if observers would describe the amount of blue in white birds seen in spring.

**Cattle Egret:** First: 11 Apr at the Ida Grove Pizza Hut (PE). High count: 15 on 17 May at Geode S.P. (JJD). There were 28 reports scattered throughout the rest of the period, more than usual.

**Green Heron:** First: 23 Apr at Bays Branch W.A. (PHA/RIA).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** First: 14 Apr at Riverton A. (SJD, BKP/LJP). High count: 12 on 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). The only other locations were Tomahawk M. (RTh, BFH), Anderson L. (MPr), Snake Creek M. (SJD), and Decorah (DeC), which is fewer than normal.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 ad. from 2 to 8 May at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (CE, JLF, THK), 1 imm. on 5 May in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA-photo), 1 imm. on 6 May at Black Hawk L. (RTh), 1 imm. on 18 May at Geode S.P. (JJD), 1 ad. on 19 May at Runnells W.A. (JSi), 1 ad. on 22 May along North R. in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 ad on 25 May at Lakin Sl. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**White-faced Ibis:** All: 1 on 26 Apr at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (SJD-details, HZ-details), 1 on 4 May at Brower L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH-details), up to 20 from 5 to 13 May at Snake Creek M. (PHA/RIA-photos, SJD-details, PJW), 1 on 20 May at Blue L. (\*THK, \*JLF)[3rd latest], and 1 on 25 May at Errington M. in Polk Co. (\*BE)[2nd latest].

**Tundra Swan:** The only report was of 15 on 6 Apr in Worth Co. (CJF).

**Trumpeter Swan:** None were reported. It is probably worth mentioning the numbers at various sites even though they may be introduced birds.

**Mute Swan:** A bird at Myre Sl. in Winnebago Co. on 6, 13, and 21 May (CJF, JLF, THK-photo) was all white with orange bill, but little or no black knob on the bill indicating that it was less than a year old.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** First: 30 to 50 on 3 Mar at Walton L. (DCP), Runnells W.A. (AMJ), and Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 2 on 26 May at Beaver Valley Wetlands in Black Hawk Co. (MPr). High count: 10,000 on 17 Mar along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon Co. (DCH). This species was noted by 21 contributors in all areas of the state. Does this mean that there are more than usual, especially in eastern Iowa? A flock at Dan Green Sl. gradually dwindled from 240 on 4 May to 6 on 21 May (LAS, JLF).

**Snow Goose:** High count: 250,000 on 17 Mar along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon Co. (DCH). Last: on 26 May with 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 3 at Tomahawk M. (PE).

**Ross's Goose:** First: 3 Mar at Runnells W. A. (AMJ, JSi). Last: 12 May at sod farm in Scott Co. (PCP). High count: 38 on 5 Apr at Snake Creek M. (SJD). This species has become widespread, with reports from 19 counties, including 9 in western, 7 in central, and 3 in eastern Iowa.

**Canada Goose:** The first brood was noted on 29 Apr at Big Wall L. (SJD).

**Wood Duck:** A male was courting a female Hooded Merganser on 22 May in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Green-winged Teal:** High count: 3,286 on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**American Black Duck:** 1 to 6 were reported from 10 counties across the state.

**Northern Pintail:** High count: 2,500 on 9 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE). A pair remained at Cardinal M. on 30 May (DeC).

**Blue-winged Teal:** First: 3 on 6 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD).

**Cinnamon Teal:** All (males): 24 Mar at De Soto N.W.R. (Jim Pease fide JJD), 5 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK), 2 on 12 Apr at Hawarden (SJD, JV-details but no date), and 1 on 22 Apr at Bays Branch W.A. (JLF).

**Northern Shoveler:** High count: 240 on 6 Apr at Terra L. (DT) and 14 Apr at Kettleson Hogsback (LAS).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** An undocumented report was received.

**Canvasback:** High count: 20,000 on 30 Mar on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (CE).

**Greater Scaup:** There were 18 reports of 1 to 8 birds with detail varying from none to various indications of how the birds were identified. Five reports indicated identification by wing stripe; others mentioned size of bird, head size, head shape, and head color. It is likely that most of the identifications are correct, as Iowa birders have become experienced with this species. It is also likely that there are many more that go undiscovered. The determination of how well a scaup has to be seen to call it a Greater is often a personal decision, and must vary considerably among observers.

**Lesser Scaup:** High count: 10,000 on 30 Mar on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (CE).

**Oldsquaw:** All: 31 Mar at Cherokee (ETH) and 7 May at Dewey's Pasture (Tom Neal fide DCH)[3rd latest].

**Black Scoter:** All: 1 female on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE-details)[ties earliest, one of few spring records].

**Surf Scoter:** All: 2 females on 12 Apr at Amana L. (JLF), 1 female on 11 May at Clear L. (CJF-details), and 1 female on 13 May at Green Island W.A. (\*PCP).

**White-winged Scoter:** All: 1 male on 24 May at Black Hawk L. (PE)[2nd latest].

**Common Goldeneye:** Last: 25 May in Clinton Co. (RLC).



**Bufflehead:** High count: 40 on 6 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE).

**Hooded Merganser:** High count: 35 on 10 Mar at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (DLD).

**Common Merganser:** Last: 13 May in Polk Co. (PJW).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** First: 6 on 2 Mar at Pool 19 in Lee Co. (JLF). Last: 1 on 3 May at Mid-American Power ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP). High count: 183 on 29 Mar at Gray's L. in Polk Co. (PJW).

**Ruddy Duck:** First: 1 on 1 Mar at Center L. in Dickinson Co. near an aerator (ETh). High count: 800 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Turkey Vulture:** First: 11 Mar at L. Ahquabi (JSi). First arrivals were noted by various observers from mid-March to early April.

**Osprey:** First: 5 Apr in Boone Co. (SJD). High count: 21 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Mississippi Kite:** The first adult was seen in Des Moines on 15 May (PJW), and nest building near the Olivet Baptist Church in Clive was noted on 20 and 30 May (PJW, JLF). Another adult was seen on 18 May at Rock Creek P. in Jasper Co. (PJW-details).

**Bald Eagle:** High count: 91 on 3 Mar at Runnells W.A. (AMJ). Adults returned to a nest in Sac Co. (RTh).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** High count: 11 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Cooper's Hawk:** High count: 4 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Nests: 3 in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 in Allamakee Co. (CE), and 1 in O'Brien Co. (DK).

**Northern Goshawk:** All: 2 Apr at Waterman Prairie in O'Brien Co. (DCH), 1 imm. on 20 Apr in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 imm. on 21 Apr at Lakin Sl. (SJD-details)[2nd latest].

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 7 Mar at Iowa City (THK), 11 Mar at L. Ahquabi (JSi), 18 Mar at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (DLD/JDa), 26 Apr at Des Moines (SJD), 7 May at Sabula (PCP), and 21 May at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First: 17 Apr at Iowa City (JLF). High count: 40 on 19 Apr at Ames (Kevin Healy fide SJD).

**Swainson's Hawk:** First: 13 Apr in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Plymouth counties (BKP/LJP, SJD). High count: 22 in those counties on 13 Apr. Others were reported from Boone, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie, Lyon, Osceola, Polk, Sac, Story, and Woodbury counties. One was on a nest near Allendorf in Osceola Co. on 21 May (JLF, THK). A dark morph was at Dunbar Sl. on 13 May (DT).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** A report of a very late bird is referred to the Records Committee.

**Golden Eagle:** All: 1 ad. on 2 Mar near Argyl in Lee Co. (JLF), 1 on 6 Mar at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (C. Fraley fide LAS), 1 on 23 Mar in SW Fremont Co. (PHA/RIA), and 1 imm. on 31 Mar at Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co. (ETh).

**Merlin:** There were 16 reported from 17 March to 7 May.

**Peregrine Falcon:** There were 27 reported from 18 March to 11 May and 1 on 21 May at Riverton W.A. (MT/JMB).

**Prairie Falcon:** A large, pale falcon was seen near Wall Lake in Sac Co. on 12 Mar (\*RTh).

**Gray Partridge:** This species was reported from Boone, Calhoun, Grundy, Linn, Palo Alto, Sioux, and Story counties.

**Ruffed Grouse:** At Stephens F. in Lucas Co., 6 were drumming on 28 Apr. These are obviously introduced birds away from northeastern Iowa. The most recent DNR release there was in 1988.

**Northern Bobwhite:** The most northerly report was from Linn Co. on 14 Apr (DLD).

**Virginia Rail:** First: 3 on 3 May at Otter Creek M. (JLF). There were reports from four other locations.

**Sora:** First: 2 on 28 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE). One was at the Norwalk sewage ponds on 27 May (AMJ).

**Common Moorhen:** All: 3 on 7 and 24 May at Green Island W.A. (PCP, JLF), 1 on 8 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh), 1 on 11 May in Allamakee Co. (FL, JDa), and 1 on 29 May at Blue L. (BKP/LJP).

**American Coot:** High count: 50,000 on 21 Apr at Rush L. in Osceola Co. (DCH).

**Sandhill Crane:** First: 17 Mar at Otter Creek M. (MCK). High count: 13 on 23 Mar at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (FL, JDa). Birds returned to Otter Creek M. and Goose L. in Clinton Co. Others, presumably migrants, were seen in Allamakee, Clay, Clinton, Fremont, Polk, and Winneshiek counties.

**Black-bellied Plover:** First: 27 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE, MPr). Last: 21 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (THK). High count: 32 on 19 May at Runnells W.A. (JSi).

**American Golden-Plover:** First: 2 on 15 Mar at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP)[3rd earliest]. Last: 8 on 26 May in Calhoun Co. (DS). High count: 100 on 16 Apr at Cone M. (PCP). Fewer were reported than usual.

**Snowy Plover:** One was seen on 3 May at Oak Grove Beach at Saylorville Res. (\*SJD-photo).



**Semipalmated Plover:** First: 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD). Last: 4 on 29 May in Polk Co. (PJW). High count: 50 on 27 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE).

**Piping Plover:** First: 24 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF). Other migrants were at Dunbar Sl. on 28 Apr (RTh), Zirbel Sl. on 1 May (RGo), and Riverton A. on 3 May (BKP/LJP). There were 5 at the usual Mid-America Power ponds location by 29 Apr (BKP/LJP).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Mark and Beth Proescholdt and Russ Widner found 3 (1 male, 2 females) in a flooded field southwest of Ainsworth in Washington Co. on their way to the I.O.U. meeting on 18 May, and they were seen by many the next day (\*MPR, \*JLF, \*THK-photos, \*JJD, \*CE)[3rd earliest and 3rd latest].

**American Avocet:** First: 13 Apr at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP, SJD) and Port Neal (BFH). Last: 21 May at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. (MMB). High count: 11 on 5 May at Grover's L. (ETH). It was a banner year for avocets with reports from 18 locations from mid-April to mid-May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** First: 2 on 17 Mar at Runnells W.A. (SJD). High count: 100 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** First: 1 on 15 Mar at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 31 May at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (JJD). High count: 600 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). At Coralville Res., there were 300 on 17, 27 Apr (THK, CE).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First: 26 Apr at Tomahawk M. (RTh). Last: 16 May at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (FL).

**Willet:** First: 20 Apr in Polk Co. (PJW, DT). Last: 3 on 18 May in Des Moines Co. (RLC). High count: 35 on 3 May at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). Many more than usual were reported from 17 counties from late April to mid-May.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** First: 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details)[ties 3rd earliest]

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 to 3 were reported from 9 counties; a nest with 3 eggs was at Steele Prairie in Cherokee Co. (DK).

**Whimbrel:** All: 8 were at Riverton A. on 17 May (\*MT/JMB).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** First: 3 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (PE). Last: 26 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 17 on 15 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). There were reports from 15 counties from mid-Apr to late May.

**Marbled Godwit:** First: 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD-details). Last: 3 on 19 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 6 on 15 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). More than usual were reported from 9 counties from mid-Apr to mid-May.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** First: 2 on 1 May at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (DCP-details)[record earliest]. Last: 25 May at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 19 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK). There were reports from 8 locations, including 2 on 7 May at Coralville Res. (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest].

**Sanderling:** First: 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Last: 7 on 28 May at Colo Ponds (MPR). High count: 39 on 26 May at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** First: 3 on 11 Apr southwest of Carroll (RTh-details)[ties earliest]. Last: 12 on 25 May at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 300 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK).

**Western Sandpiper:** Four reports did not provide details for this rare species, and one report of a huge flock did not describe the underparts, which should show evidence of birds in alternate plumage.

**Least Sandpiper:** First: 30 on 12 Apr at Doon in Lyon Co. (JV). High count: 350 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** First: 26 Apr at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD-details)[3rd earliest]. Last: 7 on 31 May in Clay Co. (LAS). High count: 1,000 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK). Thousands of shorebirds in western Iowa on 20, 21 May were mostly (maybe 90%) White-rumped and Semipalmated, with White-rumped appearing to be in the majority (THK).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** First: 16 Mar at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 50 on 3 May at Riverton W.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 100 on 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First: 15 Mar at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 29 May at Blue L. (BKP/LJP). High count: 700 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Dunlin:** First: 6 on 10 Apr at Blue L. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 1 on 29 May at Blue L. (BKP/LJP). High count: 90 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). There were 5 other reports with 30 or more birds.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** First: 2 on 19 Apr at Cone M. (JLF). Last: 4 on 21 May at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. (MMB). High count: 110 on 15 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 1 at Tomahawk M. on 26 May (PE-details). Another report of a very early bird is referred to the Records Committee.

**Ruff:** A female was south of Grimes in Polk Co. on 10 May (\*BE).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: 4 May in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). Last: 22 May at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (THK). High count: 70 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 5 on 7 Apr at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). Last: 1 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details). High count: 30 at Riverton A. on 30 Apr (BKP/LJP).

**Common Snipe:** First: 1 Mar at Cone M. (JLF). Last: 11 May at Snake Creek M. (SJD). High count: 100 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD).

**American Woodcock:** First: 15 Mar at Jefferson County P. (DCP). A nest at Black Hawk L. on 6 May was later destroyed (RTh).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** First: 14 Apr at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD). High count: 155 on 7 May at Riverton A. (BE). There were reports of more than 30 birds from 7 locations and smaller numbers from numerous other locations. To top off this banner year, a male was found on a nest at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 31 May (JJD).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** First: 11 May at Dunbar Sl. (SJD). Last: 28 May at Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPR). High count: 21 on 20 May at Blue L. (JLF, THK). From 1 to 4 were seen at 7 other locations, and 13 were in Worth Co. on 16 May (CJF).

**Laughing Gull:** All: 1 ad. on 10 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD, photo).

**Franklin's Gull:** 16 Mar at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 2,000 on 13 Apr at L. Manawa (SJD).

**Little Gull:** An ad. was at Black Hawk L. on 21, 22 Apr (\*PE, \*JLF).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 2 on 13 Apr at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 12 May at Mid-America Power ponds (SJD) and at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 240 on 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Thayer's Gull:** All: 3 first-year birds on 1 Mar in Scott Co. (JLF)[3rd latest] and 1 first-year bird on 31 Mar at Red Rock Res. (AMJ)[record latest].

**Iceland Gull:** A first-year bird was at Red Rock Res. on 6 Apr (\*JSi)[record latest].

**Glaucous Gull:** All: 2 first-year on 1 Mar at Lock and Dam 14 in Scott Co. (JLF), 1 ad. alternate on 17 and 23 Mar at Red Rock Res. (SJD, AMJ), 1 first-basic on 17 and 30 Mar Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE), 1 first-year on 31 Mar at Black Hawk L. (RTh-details), 2 first-year and 1 ad. on 3 Apr near L. Manawa (BKP/LJP)[3rd latest], and 1 first-year on 30 Mar, 3 Apr at Big Creek L. (AMJ, MPR)[3rd latest]. This is by far the most spring records ever recorded for Iowa.

**Caspian Tern:** First: 30 Apr at Mid-America Power ponds. Last: 29 May in Polk Co. (PJW) and at Blue L. (BKP/LJP). High counts: 81 at Mid-America Power Ponds on 12 May (SJD) and 50 on 19 May at Rathbun Res. (RLC). There were reports from 13 locations.

**Common Tern:** First: 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details). Last: 25 May at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). There were reports of 1 to 4 birds from 12 locations across the state, most with substantiating details. That is many more than usual.

**Forster's Tern:** First: 13 Apr at L. Manawa (SJD). High count: 75 on 11 May at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

**Least Tern:** All: 3 were at the usual location at Mid-America Power ponds on 20, 25, 26 May (THK, BKP/LJP) and 2 were south of there on a barrow pit near Glenwood on 20 May (THK).

**Black Tern:** First: 3 May at Folsom L. (BKP/LJP) and at Pine L. in Hardin Co. (MPR). High count: 500 on 21 May in northwestern Iowa (THK). Over 100 were noted at 5 locations, but this underestimates the numbers present at most water areas in mid- to late May (THK).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** First: 18 May at 3 locations.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** First: 17 May at Cone M. (THK).

**Great Horned Owl:** A pale bird (?Arctic race) nested in Mason City (CJF).

**Burrowing Owl:** One was reported on 26 Apr in Lyon Co., but the field was burned and the owl not seen again (Bill Martin fide DCH).

**Great Gray Owl:** An injured bird that was found on 1 Mar at Des Moines in Polk Co. died on 3 Mar (Iowa State Univ. specimen #2643, JJD). One was photographed in northwestern Fayette Co. on 10 Mar (P-0517, Don and Jean Boyer fide Dave Oestmann and DeC).

**Long-eared Owl:** All: 2 on 3 Mar at Coralville Res. (CE), 1 on 12 Mar at L. Pahoja in Lyon Co. (ETH), 1 on 16 Mar dead on road north of Indianola (PJW), and 6 on 2 Apr at Mid-Prairie P. in Carroll Co. (RTh).

**Short-eared Owl:** All: 1 on 15 Mar in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP), 1 on 26 Mar in Marshall Co. (MPR), 1 on 13 Apr in Lyon Co. (SJD), and 2 on 16 Apr in Dickinson Co. (RTh).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All (singles): 14 Mar at Coralville Res. (JLF), 21 Mar at Ledges S.P. (SJD), and 22 Mar at Crawford Creek R.A. in Ida Co. (PE).

**Common Nighthawk:** First: 7 May in Dallas Co. (PJW).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** The only report was of 2 on 19 May near Waubonsie S.P. (JLF, THK).

**Whip-poor-will:** First: 3 on 28 Apr in Boone Co. (SJD).

**Chimney Swift:** First: 21 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First: 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (SJD).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Few over-wintered. First arrivals were noted on 1 May (JLF, MPr) and migrating birds were seen on 10, 11 May (SJD).

**Northern Flicker:** A red-shafted bird was at Doon in Lyon Co. on 12 Apr (JV).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports were from Henry, Johnson, and Lucas counties.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 4 May in Lee Co. (RLC). Last: 31 May in Winneshiek (DeC) and Clay (LAS) counties. From 1 to 3 were reported from 15 locations.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** First: 11 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 14 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 30 May in Scott (PCP) and Johnson (CE) counties. From 1 to 5 were reported from 18 locations, many more than usual.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** First: 16 May near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

**Alder Flycatcher:** First: 2 on 17 May at Iowa City (JLF). Last: 1 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**Willow Flycatcher:** First: 11 May at Big Creek S.P. (SJD).

**Least Flycatcher:** First: 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Large numbers of empidonax flycatchers were seen in late May, but most went unidentified except for the many Yellow-bellied Flycatchers noted above.

**Eastern Phoebe:** First: 24 Mar at Chariton (SJD).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** First: 28 Apr at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (MCK).

**Western Kingbird:** The only report from eastern Iowa was in Muscatine Co. on 11 May (PCP). In central Iowa, 1 was in Webster Co. on 10 May (PHA/RIA-photo).

**Eastern Kingbird:** First: 1 May at Cone M. (JLF). Hundreds were seen on 10 May in central Iowa (SJD).

**Purple Martin:** First: 3 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Other first arrivals were noted from 13 to 19 April.

**Tree Swallow:** First: 16 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (SJD)[2nd earliest]. High count: 5,900 on 10 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** First: 9 Apr at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP).

**Cliff Swallow:** First: 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Barn Swallow:** First: 2 on 15 Apr at Black Hawk L. (RTh).

**Blue Jay:** Migrants were noted in central Iowa on 27, 28 Apr and in SC Iowa on 4, 5 May (SJD).

**Fish Crow:** Two reports will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Returning birds were noted throughout May with 2 still at Spencer on 31 May (LAS).

**Carolina Wren:** Birds over-wintered in Jasper (GJB) and Carroll (RTh) counties. Other northerly birds were at Ames on 27 Mar (JJD) and Black Hawk L. on 27 Apr (RTh).

**Bewick's Wren:** Birds were found in Lee Co. south (29 Apr, THK) and north (2 May, JLF) of the Croton Unit.

**House Wren:** First: 25 Apr at Amana (JLF) and at Algona (MCK).

**Winter Wren:** Wintering birds were present at Burlington and Ames in early March. In addition to the usual April reports, there 5 from May, the last at Grammer Grove on 11 May (MPr-details) and at A. A. Call S.P. on 14 May (MCK-details).

**Sedge Wren:** First: 25 Apr at Otter Creek M. (JLF-details)[ties 2nd earliest].

**Marsh Wren:** First: 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Few were seen (SJD) and few were reported.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First: 5 Apr at Big M. (MPr). High count: 34 on 30 Apr at Decorah (DeC). Last: 22 May at Sweet M. (JLF).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First: 9 Apr near Spirit Lake (ETH)[ties 2nd earliest].

**Mountain Bluebird:** One was at Hidden Bridge W.A. in Lyon Co. on 12 Mar (\*ETH).

**Veery:** First: 8 May at Mason City (RGo).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** First: 8 May at Liscomb (MPr). Last: 30 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). High count: 7 at Ames on 12 May (PM).

**Swainson's Thrush:** First: 28 Apr at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (MCK-details, JLF). Last: 31 May at Trumbull L. (LAS). High count: 200 on 11 May at Moorehead P. (PE). Large numbers were reported, especially from northwestern and north-central Iowa, where birds tend to be concentrated by the widely spaced woodland habitat. This species appears to be much more common than Gray-cheeked Thrush.

**Hermit Thrush:** First: 24 Mar at Des Moines (PJW) and at Grammer Grove (MPr). After my admonition about describing birds seen in May, there were 12 May reports, 9 with details. The last 3 with details were from 11 May at Ames (PM), from 12 May in Black Hawk Co. (MPr), and from 13 May at Fairfield (DCP). Were these birds late due to the late spring this year?

**Wood Thrush:** First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit in Lee Co. (THK).

**Gray Catbird:** First: 5 May at Fairfield (DCP) and at Coralville Res. (CE).

**Northern Mockingbird:** All: 25 Apr at Diamond L. (MPR), 27 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and 1 May near South Amana (JLF).

**Brown Thrasher:** First: 13 Apr at Fairfield (DCP).

**American Pipit:** First: 4 on 15 Mar at Sheldon Pond in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP). Last: 1 on 15 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 20 on 10 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). There were 6 reports from March, 2 from April, and 6 from May.

**Northern Shrike:** Last: 29 Mar at Green Island W.A. (JLF). The most southerly of 7 reports was from Lucas Co. on 24 Mar (SJD). The most unusual bird was carrying a dead bluebird in Lyon Co. on 17 Mar (DCH).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Most unusual was 1 at Rainbow Bridge P. in Calhoun Co. on 18 May (DS). Others were in Louisa (PCP) and Lee (RLC) counties.

**Belt's Vireo:** First: 1 at Polk City W. A. in Polk Co. on 27 Apr was singing (DT)[record earliest].

**Solitary Vireo:** First: 28 Apr in Clay Co. (J. Knight fide LAS). Last: 29 May at Ames (PM). There were 6 reports in late May for this generally early migrant.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** First: 29 Apr at Croton U. (THK).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** First: 18 May in Lee Co. (RLC). Last: 31 May in Clay Co. (LAS). High count: 5 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** First: 16 May at Ames (PM). High count: 300 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** First: 7 on 4 May in Lee Co. (RLC).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** First: 11 May at 4 locations. Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE)[2nd latest]. High count: 10 on 16 May in Jones Co. (CE). Also late was 1 in Ames on 27 May (PM)[ties 3rd latest].

**Tennessee Warbler:** First: 27 Apr in Story Co. (Mike Meetz fide SJD). Last: 31 May at Algona (MCK). High count: 49 on 26 May at Ames (PM).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Ames (PM). Last: 21 May at Kettleson Hogsback (\*THK, JLF). High count: 15 on 10 May in Polk Co. (SJD).

**Nashville Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Ames (PM). Last: 31 May at Algona (MCK)[ties 3rd latest]. High count: 7 on 11 May at L. Macbride (CE).

**Northern Parula:** First: 27 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Yellow Warbler:** First: 4 May in Decatur Co. (SJD).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** First: 5 May at Ames (Erv Klaas fide SJD). Last: 30 May at Lake City (DS). High count: 30 on 16 May in Jones Co. (CE).

**Magnolia Warbler:** First: 2 May at Stone S.P. (BFH). Last: 30 May at Kettleson Hogsback (ETh). High count: 14 on 16 May in Jones Co. (CE).

**Cape May Warbler:** First: 10 May at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last: 26 May at Thunder Woman P. in Black Hawk Co. (MPR)[record latest]. High count: 10 on 11 May in Allamakee Co. (FL). Another late bird was at Carroll on 24 May (RTh)[2nd latest]. There were 18 reports, more than usual.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** All: a female at Coralville Res. on 10 May (JLF).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First: 3 Apr in Wayne Co. (Bill Jackson fide JJD). Last: 29 May at Hendrickson M. (Russ Widner fide MPR). High counts: on 11 May, 2,000 in central Iowa (SJD) and 1,000 at Saylorville Res. (BE). Others reported large concentrations from 9 to 12 May. There were 9 reports after 20 May.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** First: 6 May at Ames (HZ). Last: 29 May at Kettleson Hogsback (ETh). High count: 8 on 11 May at L. Macbride (CE).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** First: 10 May at Pine L. (MPR). Last: 2 Jun in Jasper Co. (\*GJB). High count: 4 in Jones Co. on 16 May (CE) and in Ida Co. on 18 May (PE).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** First: 27 Apr in Van Buren Co. (RLC). Birds were present at previously known locations: Lee Co., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in Van Buren Co., Starr's Cave in Des Moines Co., L. Macbride in Johnson Co., and Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. Other locations within the range of this species were at Stephens F. in Lucas Co. on 4 May (JSi) and w. of Buffalo in Scott Co. on 18 May (PCP). Much more unusual were birds at Pine L. in Hardin Co. from 30 Apr to 17 May (MPR) and at A. A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 29 May (MCK).

**Pine Warbler:** All: 11 May at Pine L. (\*MPR) and 16 May in Jones Co. (CE-details).

**Prairie Warbler:** A pair returned to L. Macbride on 7 May (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest], and on 19 May there were 2 males on territory one-quarter mile apart (CE).

**Palm Warbler:** First: 26 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 6 on 17 May at Decorah (DeC). High count: 40 in Lee Co. on 4 May (RLC). Peaks in central and northern Iowa were noted from 10 to 12 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First: 3 on 11 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 1 on 27 May at Fairfield (DCP). There were 6 reports of 1 to 3 birds.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** First: 11 May at L. Macbride (CE) and at Pine L. (MPR). Last: 31 May at Trumbull L. (LAS). High count: 100 on 29 May at Ledges S. P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**Cerulean Warbler:** First: 11 May at Ames (PM) and at L. Macbride (CE). Other locations were in Allamakee, Appanoose, Lee, and Warren counties.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** First: 28 Apr at Croton U. (THK). Last: 29 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). High count: 47 on 11 May at Pine L. (MPR).

**American Redstart:** First: 9 May at Otter Creek M. (MPR). High count: 34 on 16 May at Algona (MCK) and on 24 May at Lake View (PE).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** First: 11 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE). One on 23 May at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. was out of range (BFH).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** In addition to birds at the Croton U. (JLF, CE), birds were out of range on 15 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK) and at Grammer Grove (MPR).

**Ovenbird:** First: 28 Apr at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (MCK). High count: 26 on 11 May at Ames (PM).

**Northern Waterthrush:** First: 27 Apr at Tomahawk M. (PE). Last: 26 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). High count: 28 on 10 May in Polk Co. (SJD).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Birds were found at the expected locations: Croton U., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Palisades-Kepler S.P., and Ledges S.P. Others were 1 in Appanoose Co. on 21 Apr (RLC), 6 at Nine Eagles S.P. on 5 May (SJD), 1 at Mason City on 26 Apr (CJF-details), and 1 at A. A. Call S. P. on 4 May (MCK-details).

**Kentucky Warbler:** First: 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). One at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 11 May was a first county record (PE, RTh).

**Connecticut Warbler:** First: 17 May at Hickory Hill P. and L. Macbride (JLF). Last: 30 May at Lake City (DS). There were 14 birds reported from 9 locations.

**Mourning Warbler:** First: 16 May at 3 locations. Last: 30 May at Coralville Res. (CE). High count: 16 on 25 May at Moorehead P. (PE). This species was widely reported, especially in late May.

**Common Yellowthroat:** First: 4 May in Ringgold Co. (SJD).

**Hooded Warbler:** All: 28 Apr at Croton U. (THK), 22 May along North R. in Warren Co. (JSi), 27 May at Rolling Thunder Prairie in Warren Co. (JSi), and 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**Wilson's Warbler:** First: 4 on 11 May at L. Macbride (CE). Last: 29 May with 1 in Ames (PM), 2 at Spencer (LAS), and 3 at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK)[tie 3rd latest]. High count: 46 on 16 May at Algona (MCK). Other high counts, also on 16 May, were 32 at Ames (PM) and 20 in Jones Co. (CE).

**Canada Warbler:** First: 16 May at Ames (HZ) and in Jones Co. (CE). Last: 30 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). High count: 5 on 29 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: 1 out of range at Sioux Center on 15 May (JV) and 1 near Denmark in Lee Co. on 19 May (JLF, MPR).

**Summer Tanager:** All: a pair at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. from 16 to 18 May (JLF), an imm. male on 11 May in Allamakee Co. (\*JDA), and 1 on 25 May at Brown's Woods in Polk Co. (DT).

**Scarlet Tanager:** First: 10 May at Grammer Grove (BPR).

**Western Tanager:** A first-year male was near Spirit Lake on 23 May (\*ETh). Another secondhand report was received.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** First: 8 May at Grammer Grove (MPR). High count: 48 on 11 May at Fairfield (DCP).

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** Two reports of females are referred to the Records Committee.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Two males came to a feeder at Wellman in Washington Co. on 10 May (Barbara Henderson fide THK). The only other report was from a usual location in Fremont Co.

**Lazuli Bunting:** A male that frequented a feeder in Shenandoah for 4 days was seen on 16 May (\*MT).

**Indigo Bunting:** First: 3 May in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Dickcissel:** First: 4 May in Cedar Co.

**Eastern Towhee:** First: 30 Mar at Croton U. (CE).

**Spotted Towhee:** All: ca. 22 Apr at Sioux City (Jack A. Holloway II fide JAH), 24 Apr in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA), an imm. male on 14 May at Indianola (JSi)[3rd latest], and 19 May at Huston P. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS)[record latest].

**American Tree Sparrow:** Last: 17 Apr at Sioux Center (JV).

**Chipping Sparrow:** First: 3 Apr at Fairfield (DCP).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** First: 3 May at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 21 May at Trumbull L. (THK). High count: 20 on 9 May near Fomey L. (BKP/LJP).

**Field Sparrow:** First: 24 Mar at Fairfield (DCP).

**Lark Sparrow:** First: 21 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ). A nest with eggs was found at Coralville Res. on 19 May (Neil Bernstein fide JJD).

**Savannah Sparrow:** First: 6 on 30 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** The only report away from the usual site at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. was at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. on 20 May (DLD).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** First: 27 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 19 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other reports were of 1 to 3 from 8 sites between 18 Apr and 11 May.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** All (singles): 22 May at Zirbel Sl. (THK, JLF) and 25 May at Snake Creek M. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

**Fox Sparrow:** First: 18 Mar in Linn Co. (JDa, DLD). Last: 19 Apr at a feeder in Carroll (RTh). High count: 28 on 13 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** First: 7 Apr at Sioux Center (JV)[2nd earliest]. Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE-details)[2nd latest].

**White-throated Sparrow:** Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE) and at Mason City (JLW). High count: 240 on 11 May at Fairfield (DCP).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Last: 27 May at Carroll (RTh)[record latest].

**Harris's Sparrow:** Last: 22 May in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Last: 26 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF)[3rd latest].

**Lapland Longspur:** Last: 40 on 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 800 s. of Madrid on 4 Mar (SJD). There were 5 other reports.

**Smith's Longspur:** All: 3 flocks on 3 Apr n. of Lone Tree in Johnson Co. (JLF) and 32 on 14 Apr in Audubon Co. (SJD-photo).

**Bobolink:** First: 4 May in Decatur Co. (SJD).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Birds were singing on 9 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC). Please report the first (and last!) singing Eastern Meadowlarks so that we can accumulate data on their arrival (and departure) dates.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** First: 5 Apr at Tomahawk M. (PE). A male was at a feeder in Algona on 7 Apr (MCK). On 26 Apr, 1,000 (80% females) were at Trumbull L. (MMB). One at the Norwalk sewage ponds on 27 May was a bit out of the usual range (AMJ).

**Rusty Blackbird:** First: 300 on 10 Mar in Greene Co. (RTh). Last: 1 on 21 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** A dark-eyed female was at Snake Creek M. in Greene Co. on 11 May (\*SJD, BE)[record latest].

**Great-tailed Grackle:** First: 45 on 5 Mar at Forney L. in Fremont Co. (SJD)[ties 2nd earliest]. Groups of 15 to 45 were reported from 5 locations. In Dallas Co. on 7 May, a pair was building a nest at Granger sewage ponds and 3 nests were found at Brenton Sl. (SJD). In Guthrie Co., there were 2 nests at Long Pond on 8 May (SJD). Nesting was also noted at the sewage pond in Norwalk in Warren Co. on 27 May (AMJ, JSI). On 22 May a bird was found on the west edge of Ft. Madison in Lee Co. (PHA/RIA-photo), which extends the range farther to the southeast. This species is spreading rapidly. In addition to the above, there were records for the following counties: Boone, Clay, Emmet, Greene, Kossuth, Louisa, Monona, Polk, Pottawattamie, Sac, and Tama.

**Orchard Oriole:** First: 9 May in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP). One at Estherville in Emmet Co. was usual (DHe).

**Baltimore Oriole:** First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

**Purple Finch:** Last: 14 May near Spirit L. (ETh) and in Polk Co. (DT).

**White-winged Crossbill:** All (singles): 4 Mar at Squaw Creek P. in Linn Co. (JLF), 6 Mar at Grundy Center (DA-details), and 11 Mar at Mason City (JLW).

**Common Redpoll:** Last: 5 Apr at George in Lyon Co. (JV) and at Ames (Jeanne Edwards fide SJD). There were 3 reports from early and 1 from late March.

**Pine Siskin:** Last: 31 May at Iowa City (JLF, THK) and at Des Moines (PJW). Other late May reports were from Dickinson, Sioux, and Story counties.

**Evening Grosbeak:** The only 1 was at Ames on 21 Apr (Kevin Healy fide SJD).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** In addition to the usual Des Moines County birds, 4 were at Muscatine in Muscatine Co. on 2 May (PCP) and 1 was at the pumping station in Green Bay Bottoms in Lee Co. on 19 May (PCP).

## COMMENT

This unusual spring migration was well reported. I entered 2,041 sightings into the database (up 9% from 1995) and received 37 documentations of 24 species. Again, I thank the contributors for getting their reports to me on time.

I was particularly pleased with the details provided on rare species and birds seen on unusual dates. Just to know that the observer realized that the bird or date was



unusual and to know how well it was seen makes the job of writing the report much easier and more reliable. For example, the details on Greater Scaup, on Common Tern, and on Hermit Thrushes in May made me aware that observers were cognizant of the difficulties in identification of these species. There were also several useful descriptions of birds in unusual plumages.

The *Official Checklist of Iowa Birds 1996 Edition* (see pp. 76-85) will change some of the species reviewed by the Records Committee. All records of Casual species will be reviewed. The species in this category have undergone almost a 50% turnover since the last edition of the checklist, and now include the following: Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, California Gull, Iceland Gull, Sabine's Gull, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager, and Pine Grosbeak. Reports of all of these species should be documented. Observers should continue to document some of the species that have moved up from Casual to Regular, especially those with confusing plumages and those seen on unusual dates. Regular species that should be documented include Mute Swan, Mississippi Kite (except at nesting site), Thayer's Gull (except first-year), Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Pine Warbler. It is useful to have details or documentation on Greater Scaup, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Western Sandpiper, Common Tern, Bohemian Waxwing, and Brewer's Blackbird. Any bird seen at an unusually early or late date or at an unusual location is worth documenting. Your reports are kept and become a valuable part of the permanent record of birds in Iowa.

## CONTRIBUTORS

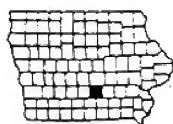
Dorothy Aldrich (DA), Grundy Center; Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Jean M. Braley (JMB), Shenandoah; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; Marion M. Brewer (MMB), Cherokee; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Jane R. Clark (JRC), Clive; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; Jeff Dankert (JDa), La Crosse, WI; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Jack A. Holloway III (JAH), Tucson, AZ; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Darwin Koenig (DK), Ankeny; Fred Leshner (FL), La Crosse, WI; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dale Stone (DS), Lake City; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Rob Thelen (RTh), Carroll; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ), Nevada.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

# CALIFORNIA GULL AT RUNNELLS WILDLIFE AREA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE AND JIM SINCLAIR

On 3 September 1995 we observed a first-basic California Gull east of Swan, Marion County. The bird was with a group of about 300 Ring-billed Gulls on a shallow pond at the Runnells Wildlife Area. We watched and photographed the bird from 10:55 a.m.-12:24 p.m. The bird was slightly bulkier and longer than the largest Ring-billed Gulls. However, the bird was not so large as to stand out by size alone. In general, the plumage was very brown, reminiscent of a juvenile Herring Gull. The bill was slender, long, and distinctly bicolored. The basal two thirds were pink, the distal one third black. The distinction between pink and black on the bill was sharp. The bill had a slight bulge at the tip. The eye was dark. From brief glimpses of the legs, they appeared dull pink. The body, including head, neck, underparts, and mantle, was brown except that the face and throat were slightly paler. The rectrices were entirely dark with no tail band. The rump was paler than the tail and mantle and was finely barred with dark brown. The undertail coverts were also pale with fine, dark barring. The upperwing pattern was as follows: primaries entirely black except slightly paler on base of the innermost one or two, tips of secondaries black, greater secondary coverts dark with pale tips, median and lesser secondary coverts dark brown. The effect was a dark bar along the trailing edge and a paler bar above it, contrasting with dark color on the remainder of the innerwing. The double bar effect on the upperwing was not as clear as illustrated in some field guides because of the lack of contrast between the dark bar on the greater secondary coverts and color of the median and lesser secondary coverts. Based on these features, we concluded the bird was in first-basic plumage. However, the bird may still have been in transition since the legs were not bright pink. Grant (1986) does not indicate the timing of molt in California Gulls. However, several other large larids (e.g., Herring Gull) can acquire first-basic plumage as early as September (Grant 1986).



This bird could not be relocated the next day, but was reportedly seen on 5, 6 September below the dam of Red Rock Reservoir (*IBL* 66:21). This represents the sixth record of California Gull in Iowa. All of the records are in the period September-December and have occurred since 1989. This suggests that California Gulls may be rare but regular fall migrants in Iowa, especially at some of the larger reservoirs and lakes. The records are evenly split between birds in first-basic and adult-basic plumage.

## LITERATURE CITED

Grant, P. J. 1986. *Gulls: A Guide to Identification*. T & A. D. Poyser, Staffordshire, England.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014 and 810 North B St., Indianola, IA



## TWO LAUGHING GULLS IN CENTRAL IOWA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

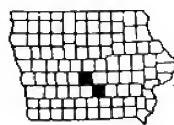
On 3 September 1995, Jim Sinclair and I saw an adult Laughing Gull in basic plumage with a group of about 300 Ring-billed Gulls east of Swan, Marion County. The gulls were feeding on a shallow pond on part of the Runnells Wildlife Area. We studied the bird from 11:00 a.m.-12:24 p.m.

at distances as close as 50 m. The bird was about 20% smaller than the average Ring-billed Gull and noticeably slimmer and longer-winged. Other features noted include the slate-gray mantle and black primaries, lack of any white separating the black primaries from the gray upperwing, the mostly white head with a grayish smudge on the nape behind the eyes, black legs, and the black bill with a pronounced gonydeal angle. The size and shape of the bill were similar to those of nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The very tip of the bill appeared pale. Based on these features, we aged the bird as an adult in basic (third-basic) plumage. I took several photos of the bird as it rested on the mud and water. This bird remained here through 6 September.

On 19 October 1995 I observed an adult Laughing Gull in basic plumage above the dam of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. I was scanning a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls feeding in the middle of the lake when I noticed a slightly smaller gull with a dark gray mantle and upperwings, dark underwings, a black bill, and a nearly white head. I studied the bird in detail from 9:40-10:32 a.m. and from 1:45-2:20 p.m. The plumage of this bird was similar to that of the bird described above. Additionally, I noted that the undersides of the primaries were black, not pale like nearby Franklin's Gulls. I aged the bird as an adult in basic (third-basic) plumage based on the wing and tail patterns. I returned the next day (20 October) and found the bird feeding with Ring-billed Gulls in the same area.

Laughing Gulls are rare visitors to Iowa, but records appear to be on the increase. These represent the 16th and 17th records of Laughing Gulls in Iowa, all of them since 1989. By month, the records are from April (2), May (1), July (5-two remaining into August), August (3), September (4), and October (2). It now appears that a few Laughing Gulls reach Iowa every year. A few adults are seen in spring, probably migrants that overshoot their normal breeding grounds. Post-breeding dispersal in late summer and fall (July-October) produces the majority of the records, usually juveniles.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014



## RED PHALAROPE AT SPIRIT LAKE

LEE A. SCHOENEWE

On 29 November 1994, I decided to take the afternoon off work and head for Spirit Lake in Dickinson County. I had received a phone call from Stephen Dinsmore who indicated several Oldsquaw had been seen on Spirit Lake. He also said that Gordon Brown of Ames had reported a Red Phalarope off Marble Beach over the weekend. I figured there was a good chance to add an Oldsquaw to my life list, and the Red Phalarope was, well, a hope and a prayer.



Spirit Lake still had a lot of open water, but cold to the north would change that overnight. I stopped first at Marble Beach but found nothing unusual. I worked around the north shore of the lake without success and pulled into Shore Acres drive to check Trickle Slough and Angler's Bay.

There were no ducks bobbing on the rough water of the bay, but as I turned north I noticed a sandpiper-shaped bird swimming in loose circles in the quiet water along the point. Training the scope on the bird, I saw the dark, stout bill; the receding dark crown extending to the nape of the neck; and the solid, light gray back to distinguish it as a Red Phalarope. It was the first for northwestern Iowa and for me.

I ran back to the truck for my camera and although the phalarope cooperated, the best of the resulting photos was barely adequate as support for my documentation of the bird. The dismal photographic effort also served to reinforce my need to try field sketches.

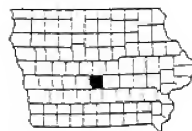
Cold weather froze the water of Angler's Bay that night, and the Red Phalarope could not be relocated the next day. As for me, missing the Oldsquaw just provided a good opportunity for a search on another day.

*518 West 4th St., Spencer, IA 51301*

## SABINE'S GULLS AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 14 September 1995, I saw a juvenile Sabine's Gull above the dam of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. I watched the bird from 9:40-10:30 a.m. as it rested on the water with a small flock of Ring-billed Gulls and later flew around the south end of the lake. The upperparts, shoulders, back of the neck, and crown were brown. The forehead was white. The bill was black and straight, and much smaller than the bill of a Ring-billed Gull. The eye was dark. In flight, the wing pattern was striking: outer primaries black, secondary coverts brown (same color as mantle), and the remainder of upperwing white. The underwing was pale. The tail was forked with a narrow black terminal band. The legs were dull flesh-colored. I saw two juvenile Sabine's Gulls here on 19 September, and at least one juvenile remained through at least 8 October. This is about the 13th record of a Sabine's Gull in Iowa. The vast majority are juveniles and are seen in September and October. At least five juveniles were seen in Iowa in fall 1995 (*IBL* 66:22).

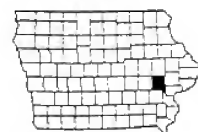


*4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014*

## RUFF AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

On 21 August 1995, I was at the north end of Half Moon Lake on Greencastle Avenue near the old DuPont Bridge at the Coralville Reservoir in Johnson County when a flock of shorebirds landed on a spit 30 yards in front of me. One was larger. It had bright orange legs and a black smudge across the upper breast. At that point I knew I was looking at a reeve (female Ruff). It was 25 percent larger than Pectoral Sandpipers, and slightly larger and bulkier-bodied than



Killdeer and Lesser Yellowlegs. Shape and posture was most similar to Lesser Yellowlegs. The thin, straight, black bill was about as long as the head. The lower face was pale gray compared to the darker cap and nape. In addition to the smudged black across the breast, there was some fine barring around the throat. The lower breast, belly, and undertail coverts were white. The upper parts were dark due to black feathers, some of which had white or buff fringes at their tips. There were scattered gray feathers in the scapulars. Upon flushing the bird, I observed and photographed a V- or U-shaped white patch on the upper tail that pointed to the tip and had a black center proximally. The wings were plain except for a thin white wing bar. Jim Fuller and Chris Edwards noted that some of the back feathers were ruffled, and they saw chevrons on the sides extending to the legs.

I judged the bird as a female based on size and plumage and the plumage as mostly alternate based on the distribution of black and feather wear. The underparts would have more black in fresh spring plumage. This bird was seen by many birders and remained until at least 26 August. This is the third and earliest fall record of Ruff in Iowa. The others were juveniles east of Tabor in Fremont County from 8 to 12 September 1982 (Silcock 1983) and at Hendrickson Marsh in Story County on 1 and 2 September 1984 (Martsching 1986).

#### LITERATURE CITED

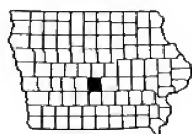
- Martsching, P. 1986. Ruff in Story County. *Iowa Bird Life* 86:64.  
Silcock, W. R. 1983. A Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in southwest Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 53:87-90.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

### RED PHALAROPES AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 19 September 1995 I arrived at Jester Park to look over the extensive mudflats at the north end of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. At 2:10 p.m., I noticed a phalarope swimming along the edge of the mudflat near several Killdeer. The bird was nearly as large as the Killdeer, although it was shorter legged. I watched the bird until 2:23 p.m. and noted the following. In general, it was a pale, stocky, plump, short-legged shorebird. The black bill was short, thick, blunt-tipped, and roughly equal to the length of the head. The head was white, except that the crown and back of the neck were black and there was a black spot around each eye. The underparts were entirely white. There was some very faint buffy color on the sides of the neck and shoulder. The mantle and scapulars were light gray with several small black patches. In flight, a clear white stripe extended across the bases of the flight feathers. The tail was dark, and the legs were black. Based on the mantle pattern and buffy color on the neck, I concluded the bird was in first-basic plumage.



On 22 October 1995, I was once again scanning the mudflats at the upper end of the lake when I saw another Red Phalarope. I watched the bird from 9:35-10:15 a.m. Initially, the bird associated with three Sanderlings. The head, neck, underparts, and vent were white except for a black cap and a black spot around each eye that extended posteriorly a short distance, and pale gray color extending up the back of the neck.

The mantle was entirely pale gray. The folded primaries appeared dark gray to black. The bill was black, about the length of the head, and had a stout, tubular appearance. The bird made several short flights, during which I noted the pale wing stripe contrasting with the dark upperwings and the dark tail. At a distance, the bird appeared so pale that it might easily have been overlooked as a Sanderling. Based on the mantle pattern and lack of any buffy wash on the neck and underparts, I concluded the bird was an adult in basic plumage. However, it is possible the bird was a juvenile that had already completed the molt to basic plumage. This bird remained in this area through 26 October and was seen by several others.

These are the seventh and eighth records of Red Phalarope in Iowa. There are four previous records from Saylorville Reservoir: 30 September-3 October 1988 (Dinsmore and Engebretsen 1989), 4 August 1991 (Dinsmore 1992), 25-30 September 1991 (Proescholdt 1992), and 26 October 1991 (Proescholdt 1992). The other two records are from 8-9 November 1992 at Rathbun Reservoir (Kent 1993) and 25, 29 November 1994 at Spirit Lake (Gordon Brown, pers. comm., Schoenewe 1996).

#### LITERATURE CITED

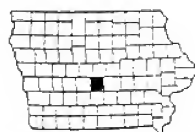
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1992. A second Red Phalarope at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 62:86-87.  
 Dinsmore, S. J., and B. Engebretsen. 1989. Red Phalarope at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 59:19.  
 Kent, T. H. 1993. Red Phalarope at Rathbun Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 63:82.  
 Proescholdt, M. 1992. Two more Red Phalaropes at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 62:87-88.  
 Schoenewe, L. A. 1996. Red Phalarope at Spirit Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:111-112.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

#### RED KNOTS AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 1 September 1995 I observed a Red Knot with a group of about 100 shorebirds on a distant mudflat at the north end of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. I watched the bird at a distance of 300-400 m from 8:55-9:10 a.m. The bird was larger, stockier, and shorter-legged than several Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpipers with which it was feeding. The bill was straight, thick, and about the same length as the head. The legs appeared dark at a distance. The underparts were white and appeared unmarked. The mantle and head were gray, similar to the color of a basic-plumaged Sanderling. When feeding, the wings appeared darker than the upperparts. The bird made two short flights. In flight, the bird appeared nearly uniform pale gray except for darker primaries and a pale rump. Since the underparts appeared very white and unstreaked, I concluded that the bird was probably an adult in basic plumage.



On 29 September 1995 I was birding the same area when I noticed a larger shorebird with a small flock of Sanderlings. I watched the bird from 7:45-8:20 a.m. and identified it as a juvenile Red Knot. This bird was about half again as large as a

Sanderling with a similar stocky, short-legged appearance. The legs were dull yellow-green, but sometimes appeared dark. The bill was black, of medium length, and straight. The head and upperparts were light gray except for a faint, pale supercilium and pale edges to the feathers of the mantle. The underparts were whiter with a pale gray wash to the upper breast and some faint gray streaking on the breast and flanks. The vent was white. The tail was dark on the distal half, while the uppertail and rump were paler and barred with dark gray. In flight, the outer primaries were darker than the rest of the wing and there was a pale stripe along the base of the flight feathers. This bird remained here through at least 3 October and was seen by numerous birders.

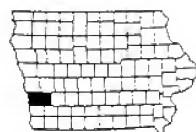
There are about 15 previous records of Red Knots in Iowa, all but two since 1984. Most records are of juveniles in August and September. There are two other records from Saylorville Reservoir: three adults from 5-6 August 1986 at Oak Grove Beach (Dinsmore, S., *IBL* 57:24, 1987) and two juveniles from 3-6 September 1989 at Sandpiper Beach (*IBL* 60:14).

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

## BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

BABS AND LOREN PADELFORD

On the morning of 24 September 1995 we were birding Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie County when we found a Black-legged Kittiwake sitting on the water about 25 yards off the west shore. We watched it from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. During that time, it remained in the water, but moved out toward the middle of the lake. We returned later, but, at first, could not find the bird. After a few minutes, it flew to the same area where we had seen it that morning. We observed it from 6:15 to 6:20 p.m., this time from as close as 15 yards.



The bird was a medium-sized gull, approximately the size of a Ring-billed Gull. It appeared to be molting from first alternate to second basic plumage. The mantle was light gray, about the shade of a Ring-billed Gull. There were faint carpal bars on the inner portion of the upper wing. The outer primaries appeared black. The crown, forehead, face, and nape of the neck were white. There were dark gray smudgy ear patches connected by a lighter gray band across the back of the head. The notched tail was all white except for a thin black terminal band. The bill was almost completely yellow except for a hint of a very thin black outline at the base. The legs were short and black. There were no bands on the legs.

We again saw the bird and photographed it on 26 September. It was sitting on a rock on the west shore of the lake. During this observation the bird was much closer than on the 24th, and we noticed it had dark eyes.

On one occasion, the kittiwake was seen sitting on the railing of the fishing dock on Boy Scout Island southeast of the original location. Usually it was seen near the west shore. It was also reported on 28 September, 1 October, and last on 2 October.

The Black-legged Kittiwake was also photographed by Tom Kent and Jim Fuller, and observed by many Iowa and Nebraska birders. This individual was both the oldest bird of this species documented in Iowa and also the record earliest date (*IBL* 66:21-22, 1996).

1405 Little John Rd. Bellevue, NE 68005

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Birds of Polk County** by Stephen J. Dinsmore. Des Moines Audubon Society, 1995, 38 pp., \$2.00 softbound (available from Jane Clark, 9871 Lincoln Ave., Clive, IA 50325, \$3.25 by mail). There are only a few counties in the state that have a comprehensive, written record of bird sightings, site descriptions, and vagrant reports; Polk County can be included in this select group. The first review of Polk County bird life was sponsored by the Des Moines Audubon in 1931 and was written by Philip DuMont. Annotated checklists were published in 1953, 1959, and 1973. They were authored by Woodward Brown and were again sponsored by the Audubon club.

Dinsmore's work was also sponsored by the Des Moines Audubon and is the first since 1973. It is a model of the genre. Using the field reports format employed in Iowa Bird Life, the work focuses on the records of the last 20 years. It includes seasonal abundance, breeding and historical status, and early and late dates. Bibliographic references are included as well as short descriptions of the primary birding areas.

I would wholeheartedly recommend that this study be included in every Iowan's avian collection, especially those in central Iowa. It would be hoped that this study would serve as a model and stimulus for other Iowa county studies.--Hank Zaletel, 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

### FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The lead article in the summer 1946 issue compared spring waterfowl migration data from studies done in the Ruthven area in 1934, 1938, and 1942. Although the relative abundance of several species has changed since then, two changes stood out. In all three of those studies, the Northern Pintail was the most abundant species, greatly outnumbering even Mallards. The reverse is true now. In contrast, Wood Ducks were not seen in 1934 and 1938 and only 50 were found in 1942. Now they are abundant in migration in that area. Another article summarized the results of the 1946 spring bird counts in Iowa. Seventeen counts were held, and a total of 200 species were reported, considerably less than the 230 species found on 14 counts in 1995. Again there are numerous differences with current conditions but one that stood out was for American White Pelican; only 12 were found even though two counts were held in the Spirit Lake area. Among the short notes are two that describe finding Great Egrets in Black Hawk and Clinton counties. This is a reminder that 50 years ago, this was considered a rare species in Iowa. --ed.



Printed on recycled paper  
using soy ink



The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

---

## EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)  
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014  
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246  
W. Ross Silcock, Christmas Bird Count & Winter Field Reports Editor, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

## SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

## OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Carol Thompson, President (1997), 1116 Muscatine Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Ann Johnson, Vice-President (1997), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211  
Mary Kuhlman, Secretary (1998), 1300 N. 29th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
Jim Scheib, Treasurer (1998), 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Other members of the Board of Directors: Ann Barker (1997), Beth Brown (1998), Dan Dorrance (1998), O. J. (Bud) Gode (1997), and Matthew C. Kenne (1997).

## STANDING COMMITTEES

*Publications:* Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, D. Ron Muilenburg  
*Records:* Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Tanya Bray, Ray Cummins, Chris Edwards, Ann Johnson, Francis L. Moore, Ross Silcock.  
*Membership:* Beth Brown (chair), Jane Clark, Maridel Jackson, Curt Nelson, Jim Scheib.  
*Library/Historical:* Dennis Carter, Hank Zaletel.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

16-18 May 1997, Sioux City-joint with South Dakota and Nebraska

fall 1997, Iowa City

Spring 1998, Ames

## FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

\*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

\*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

\*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

\*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I. O. U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

\*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

ISSN 0021-0455